Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Alabama

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 22, 1937

PARK IS PLACED ON 'PROBATION'

Negro Recreation Spot Is Ordered To Close Daily At Midnight

Harlem Park, Negro recreation park, was placed on "probation" Wednesday afternoon by Presiding Judge J. Fritz Thompson, who issued a permanent partial padlock injunction order closing part of the park equipment and directing that it not be permitted to operate later than midnight.

The action was taken on proceedings filed by Solicitor George Lewis Bailes by his assistant, Edward Thornton, seeking to close the park as a "public nuisance." The proceedings were instituted against Johnnie Strong, park operator.

Thornton contended in his injunction petition that beer was sold at the place and peace and quiet of the neighborhood disturbed by drunkenness, fighting, profanity and loud noises.

The hearing was the first of five padlock injunction proceedings instituted by Solicitor Bailes' office seeking to close beer sale places as public nuisances. The proceedings were based on affidavits made by citizens in various communities and on data gathered by Thornton and Eugene Smith, investigators in the solicitor's office.

Judge Thompson has issued two other temporary restraining orders —to close Serv-U-Inn, located at Crumley's Chapel on Bankhead Highway, and White Cottage, located in North Birmingham.

Judge John Denson has issued two temporary restraining orders to close Red Top Tavern and Warrior Road Service Station, both located on Bee Line Highway near Kimberly. Hearings on these cases to determine whether permanent orders will be issued will be conducted soon.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 9, 1937

Lease Extension Sought

Extension of one year of the lease for property used for a Negro playground on Southside will be asked of the T. C. I. Company by the park board. This was decided Wednesday. The property, which includes about 14 acres, is located west of the Ingalls Iron Works and has been leased by the park board for two years at $1 a year.

Parks and Play Grounds — 1937

Arkansas.

Arkansas to Have First All-Negro State Park

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—Six agencies, under tentative agreement reached here recently, will participate in a proposed $20,000 development of the nation's first all-Negro state park, eight miles west of the city.

The 100-acre park site will be deeded the state by Dr. J. B. Watson, president of the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal college for Negroes here. It will be developed by the State Park Commission and National Youth Administration.

Tentative plans provide for cooperation in the development by the Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service, State Department of Education and the Arkansas State Association of Teachers of Negro Youth.

First in the Nation

The park, Dr. Watson and Dr. Nolen Irby, director of Negro education for the state department, said, will be the first in the nation dedicated to the use of Negroes. The state now has six parks used almost entirely by white people.

Transfer of the park and the initial work probably will start next week and the development program is expected to be under way before July 1.

While Governor Bailey visited the A. M. and N. college here May 10 to attend a meeting of the college board of directors, the plans for establishing a park for Negroes near Pine Bluff were announced by Dr. Irby.

It was stated at that time that Dr. Watson had agreed to donate 100 acres of land situated a quarter of a mile from the Princeton pike for park purposes if arrangements could be made for improving the property.

It also was stated that Dr. Watson proposed to have this park used as a laboratory for teacher training students of the college in connection with playground supervision.

Dr. Watson reported that he has donated this land to the State Park Commission after arrangements for development of the park were completed. President Hull of Arkansas Tech college at Russellville, who is head of the NYA work in Arkansas, and his assistant, Mr. Harton of Little Rock and Mrs. Inez McDuff of Little Rock, who is a member of the State Park Commission, and representatives of other agencies were in Pine Bluff recently and inspected the new park site.

ARKANSAS OPENS WORK ON NEGRO STATE PARK

Resort Will Be First of Kind For Race In Nation

PINE BLUFF, Ark., June 12.—(AP)—Arkansas began development this week of the nation's first all-negro state park—a 100-acre woodland retreat in the heart of the state's negro tenant farming area.

Given to the state by a negro, the park is dedicated under deed to perpetual use by members of that race.

Negro men and boys, working through federal agencies, are developing the project at an estimated cost of $20,000. Negro leaders, under supervision of the state park commission, will direct its use.

Dr. J. B. Watson, president of the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College for negroes here, donated the park site seven miles west of Pine Bluff on U. S. Highway 70. Its immediate acceptance by the state park commission culminate four years' effort by the negro educator to obtain a state park for his race.

Lacking funds to develop the area, the park commission mapped a program under which the NYA and CCC would perform the physical construction ntcessary.

J. W. Hull, state NYA director ordered 50 negro youths sent to the college here under a national program whereby college educations are available to children of low-income families. These negroes, between the ages of 18 and 25 will earn their way through school by working on the park.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
June 13, 1937

NEGRO STATE PARK BEGUN IN ARKANSAS

U.S. Agencies Supply Men, Boys for $20,000 Work.

Colored School Head Donates Land for Resort — First of Its Kind in State.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., June 12 (AP).—Arkansas began development this week of the nation's first all-Negro State park—a 100-acre woodland retreat in the heart of the state's Negro tenant farming area.

Given to the state by a Negro, the park is dedicated under deed to perpetual use by members of that race.

Negro men and boys, working through federal agencies, are developing the project at an estimated cost of $20,000. Negro leaders, under supervision of the state park commission, will direct its use.

Dr. J. B. Watson, president of the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College for Negroes here, donated the park site from a 700-acre tract he owns seven miles west of Pine Bluff on U. S. Highway 270. Its immediate acceptance by the state park commission culminated four years' effort by the Negro educator to obtain a state park for his race.

J. W. Hull, state NYA director, ordered fifty Negro youths sent to the college here under a national program whereby college educations are made available to children of low-income farm families. These Negroes between the ages of 18 and 25, will earn their way through school by working on the park.

Park Commissioner Sam G. Davies opened negotiations with the CCC for location at the park of a subcamp from one of the state's regular Negro CCC camps.

Under a new state law, the state highway department will build one mile of road to connect the park with the trunk highway.

A portion of the funds necessary to purchase materials for the park will be raised through the Arkansas State Association of Teachers of Negro Youth. The state department of education, co-operating in the project through the efforts of Dr. Nolan Irby, state Negro education director, plans extensive use and development of the project.

"This will be the first park in the country so developed for Negroes," said Dr. Watson, regarded by state officials as an authority on matters affecting his race.

Sufficient open land is available for athletic courts and a small golf course. Adjoining the area on three sides are well-wooded sections which Dr. Watson said "would be open to any one resorting to the park, with no danger of trespassing."

Tentative building plans call for a central recreation hall or auditorium, barracks, mess halls and other camp facilities. A caretaker's lodge will be built and sufficient land set aside for his use in gardening and truck farming.

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Florida

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
May 17, 1937

BECKHARD HITS NEGRO BATHING BEACH PROJECT

Gulfport Councilman Criticizes Selection of Site in Lengthy Statement

Efforts of the city of St. Petersburg to buy a tract of land near Gulfport as the site for a negro bathing beach, constitute a "betrayal of the town of Gulfport," according to Bruno Beckhard, town councilman there.

In a statement yesterday, Beckard criticized the choice of the site purely from a practical standpoint, and charged that, in effect, five members of the St. Petersburg council had told developers of nearby exclusive residential areas to "go to blazes."

Beckhard declared the matter had been discussed in the council meeting in Gulfport several weeks ago, but that nothing had been done publicly in an effort to avert injecting the matter into the local political campaign.

"Dead as a Dodo Now"

Text of Beckhard's statement follows:

"The question of a negro playground at the approach to Corey causeway has come up at a time when apparently it can be considered by at least one St. Petersburg councilman as a political issue. It is only fair to Gulfport to point out that every effort was made to keep the issue separate from the St. Petersburg campaign. It is also in order to point out that a political issue must present two sides. This matter has no two sides and is therefore as dead as a dodo right now as a political issue.

"The Gulfport council, unlike that of St. Petersburg, was thoroughly familiar with the area in question and with the plans for its sale as a high-class development. The surprising action of our neighbors—following a direct attempt to buy Gulfport's claim—was before the members of the council at a conference on May 5, at which time the representatives of the press were asked not to mention the matter because to do so would involve Gulfport in the St. Petersburg political situation. Considerable pressure was exerted on members of the council to enter a resolution of protest, but inasmuch as the council was assured that St. Petersburg would not go through with the sale, such action was likewise avoided as being in the nature of political interference.

Wanted Definite Report

"A few days ago, however, it became evident that the various promises to void the sale were not resulting in action and therefore, without reference to the election, but due solely to the fact that Gulfport has a council meeting on Tuesday next, we insisted that we must have a definite report by that time. Even after the papers were prepared for presentation to Judge Hobson on Saturday members of the St. Petersburg council most interested in the scheme were given an opportunity to reconsider the matter and apparently refused to do so.'

"The press comments from St. Petersburg's city hall are amazing. One councilman who quite recently lived within two blocks of the city's southern boundary, and not so far from the site in question, is quoted as saying he did not know the property was outside the city limits.

"Mayor Smith claims he eyed the site as a possible landing field for Clarence Chamberlin, which does not sound like Mayor Smith, but is in keeping with a rumored policy of discouraging any potential industrial development. There is hardly a patch of Pinellas county less suited for use as a landing field, as even the most careless survey would indicate. Another happy thought was that the land could be purchased from a revolving fund set up for an entirely different purpose. The only suggestion of common sense comes from Councilman Johnson who suggests that the site is impractical.

Playground Not Involved

"The question of providing a playground for negroes is not involved. The question of the relation between St. Petersburg and its neighboring towns, the question of development of the entire western section of St. Petersburg, the question of making the gulf waterfront and the bay waterfront assets in the development of St. Petersburg, all these are vitally involved. Quite specifically, five members of the St. Petersburg council have told the owners of some of the city's finest homes, have told those who are trying to interest new capital in any local enterprise, have told those developers of nearby properties who have worked hardest to tie up their enterprises with the growth of St. Petersburg, to go to blazes.

"That is, if you take the matter seriously. But it is hard to take the matter seriously. In the first place Gulfport has never receded from the position it took when most of the men were fishing and women and children were left alone, that no negroes would be allowed within the town limits after sundown. This is not a matter of statute, it is merely a condition that no St. Petersburg negro questions.

"In the second place the site is some seven miles from the negro section of St. Petersburg and reached only by the Pass-a-Grille bus line, although Mr. Wever has been heard to suggest a special bus line.

"In the third place, and no more ridiculous than the rest, the beach of this proposed bathing beach is not included in the property the city bought.

"We in Gulfport can not help feeling that St. Petersburg, as the largest of the group of Pinellas communities, has betrayed or shown a willingness to betray the rest of us. We are in no way concerned with or interested in the St. Petersburg election, but we can not escape the fact that in the next few weeks the communities facing Boca Ciega bay will have to decide whether to include St. Petersburg in their plans, or whether with this warning they will feel that St. Petersburg is not a factor in the development of a future of which they feel assured."

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
June 29, 1937

NEGRO BATHING SPOT PROPOSED ON SOUTH MOLE

Virgil C. Almand Offers Plan as Solution of Problem Now Facing City

Virgil C. Almand, license collector for the county tax collector's office, submitted to Councilman George W. Hopkins yesterday a proposal to turn the south mole, near Waterfront park, into a bathing spot for the city's several thousand negroes.

Almand told Hopkins the spot could be fenced and concealed by thick Australian pines, providing what he termed an ideal solution to the problem now confronting the city council in finding a bathing beach or swimming pool to be used by negroes. Negroes are now permitted to bath from the mole, which is the terminal of the A. C. L. railway tracks.

The office of City Manager A. F. Thomasson revealed yesterday part of the property is already owned by the city, and part leased by the municipality from the A. C. L. That area owned outright is a 100-foot stretch along the shoreline at the south side of the mole. Another strip, in the middle of the mole, and known as "water lot No. 7," is rented from the railroad. This lease, made in 1928 and renewed in 1932, expires April 9, 1938.

Meanwhile, Hopkins reported he had received a petition with 125 names of northside residents, objecting to the proposal to construct a swimming pool in the southside area of the negro district. He also said he had another possible site under consideration, 600 feet east of Thirty-fourth street south, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth avenues.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
July 4, 1937

The Times Forum

Plenty of Work Needed In Negro Section

Editor, The Times:

The question of having a negro bathing beach, pool or shower, and where, has been discussed for several years past and I am glad of an opportunity to express my impartial views.

First, we who are interested in social service know that fundamentally proper housing is the first step toward a moral, happy betterment of any race, white, black or yellow. My visits to the colored sections have found a distressing lack of sanitation; houses, mostly owned by well-to-do whites. These houses are delapidated, steps rotting, roofs leaking, not fit for any human being; not a coat of paint anywhere, but rents are demanded, and large enough for a model dwelling, therefore many are compelled to live in one room, thus, as you might easily see, reducing their moral standards. These homes should be condemned and they would be were they not owned by well-known, influential and political citizens.

The negro loves growing things, plants, flowers; pass any home and you'll see old tins filled with these, but alas, the refuse in the unpaved alleys is left there for weeks, if ever carted away; streets, too, are unpaved, where you will force the pavement of streets, seldom, if ever, traversed and which the city is issuing liens against property owners. How about the streets in the negro sections—yes, shacks bordering these dusty, dirty thoroughfares belonging to the well-to-do. For the negro they think it is good enough.

What does this all lead to? Be honest, you property owners; would you be content to live there if your neighbors were white in color, leaving the negro question out? I say, no, no, no.

What places of amusements have they, these 9,000 negroes. The environments are far from keeping them at home. Gambling, anything for diversion. We never had so much sneak thievery as in these past years. It all comes from one common cause.

Last, but not least, the recreation center. In a city like Chicago, where they have one of the largest negro population in the country, and had had similar problems, a city square or park, a recreation center solved all. Put aside, not for weeks or months or years, but act now, a plot of ground with playground facilities. Showers, not one, but 50, one section for men and boys, the other for women and girls. Have paid supervisors. Hours in the forenoon for certain ages and others afternoon and evening. No pool, for sanitary reasons. Have trees for shade, shrubs to beautify the grounds and you will find after erecting shelters in these parks and several of these recreational centers in different sections of the negro districts a happy, healthy and moral group. The city will save indirectly in many ways.

Appoint women on your council board. women whose main object is to better human needs at any price. Make our city a city where not only our white citizens are taken care of, but an example how we have succeeded in making real good citizens of our negro race.

EVA RADZINSKI.
2311 Andalusia way.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
August 16, 1937

CONFERENCE TO OPEN BUILDING

Negro Recreation Meet Starts Wednesday In New Auditorium

The fourth state recreation conference for negroes will get under way here Wednesday night at 8 o'clock with a special program formally opening the new negro auditorium on the northside.

It will be the first public meeting in the new auditorium, constructed as a city-sponsored project of the works progress administration.

Mrs. Rolla A. Southworth of Jacksonville, state director of women's and professional projects of WPA, will make the principal address. Representatives of the city recreation department and other leaders in recreational work here will take part in the program.

Over 50 Expected

Over 50 WPA and national youth administration workers, both white and colored, are expected to attend the conference, which will close Saturday.

Discussion periods will be held both morning and afternoon on Thursday and Friday at the Palace Casino. A business meeting will be held Friday afternoon. Included on the program are a sightseeing trip, a swimming party and several breakfasts and dinners.

The closing program Saturday morning will be brief.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
October 17, 1937

CITY BUILDING SWIMMING POOL FOR NEGROES

With labor paid by the National Youth administration, the city is building a 60 foot swimming pool for negroes at their Cypress street playground. To date the construction progress has reached only the excavation stage, but the city engineering department has perfected detailed plans for the pool. City Manager Couch said last night there was no cost estimate on the project. The city will supply all materials.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
August 19, 1937

OPEN NEGRO AUDITORIUM

Over 400 Attend First Session Of Recreation Conference

With over 400 persons in attendance, the new colored auditorium here was formally opened to the public last night with the first meeting of the fourth state recreation conference for negroes.

Mrs. Rolla A. Southworth, state director, division of women's and professional projects, telegraphed she would not be able to attend the first meeting. She said she hoped to come here later this week. The conference closes Saturday.

Speakers and those who took part in last night's program included Manager R. L. "Dick" Park of the chamber of commerce; Mrs. George M. Wright; W. W. Alderman, city recreation director; Miss Mary Durrance, district director of women's work; Mrs. Margaret Lucas, area supervisor of women's work; Mrs. Mae Myricks, Polk county supervisor; Glen Kay, business manager of the music project; R. C. Oliver, state field supervisor; Daisy Dimitry, colored drama specialist for WPA; Edward Rodriquez, colored assistant state director for NYA; and Maxwell Saxon, Polk county colored WPA recreation supervisor.

An interesting demonstration of marionettes was given by Ray Louis Wray, supervisor of the federal theatre marionette unit.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the Tampa WPA juvenile band under the direction of Capt. W. Cary Thomas. The Smith sisters, a local colored quartet, sang several selections, accompanied by Charles Smith.

About 40 colored NYA workers from all parts of the state are attending the conference.

New Smyrna, Fla. News
August 25, 1937

A PLAY PARK FOR COLORED QUARTERS

A park for the colored section of the City is being discussed by City Officials. The park will be located on the corner of Mary Ave. and Dimmick St.

This strip of land is now owned by the City of New Smyrna Beach through foreclosure suits instigated about six months ago. Size of the new park is to be 150 by 200 feet.

The City expects to place several benches on the grounds. Possibilities of beautifying the property will be in the hands of the colored citizens.

Several shady oaks are on this property and with a little work this park can be made a beauty spot of the City.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Georgia.
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Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
January 24, 1937

LEISURE PROVIDED FOR NEGRO GROUPS

"The department of recreation provides in its program, leisure for colored people as well as for white people and W. P. A. and the N. Y. A. leaders have been given to the department to supervise the various activities," stated Miss Edwina Wood Saturday. She said:

"Playgrounds are open each afternoon at Spencer high with Hattie Taylor in charge; Clafflin with Ella James as leader, and Jordan City with Carl Haygood as leader. In addition to their work in the afternoons, each leader has specific duties where such classes are taught as handcraft, coaching basketball teams, and singing groups are conducted. This work is all done in the evenings so that young and adults may attend.

"The Y. M. C. A. is lending a part of their building and here we hold handcraft classes Monday and Thursday nights from 6 to 9 o'clock. Tuesday evening handcraft is taught from 6 to 9 at Ward's Chapel. Already buttons that are quite attractive have been made from black walnuts. Rugs of various kinds are woven, and other practical and useful arts are taught.

"The department appreciates the cooperation of the "Y," Ward's Chapel, and also the First African Baptist church, which is also used for club meetings, for without these buildings the department could not do club work at all."

Monroe, Ga., News
March 16, 1937

THE NEGRO YOUTHS' OPPORTUNITY

That an industrious, hard-working, economizing negro, in the person of Cap Jackson, should have sufficient forethought and vision to contribute an acre of well-situated ground to the development of a play ground or any other purpose for which those who have it in charge might designate, is no bad idea. We have the negroes with us. They will be with us always, and in view of that fact, it is squarely up to all of us to see that they make the most desirable citizens possible. The location of this lot—its separation from the busy whirl of the city—makes it the more logical for the best work possible, under trustworthy, capable leadership. Our city fathers should build on the foundation this humble darkey has laid. Jackson, we all know, did not have the advantages of the negro youths of today, and for that reason his gift is all the greater.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
October 27, 1937

NEW RECREATION SPOT DEVELOPED

Location at Montpelier and Patterson to Provide Greater Playground

Mrs. George Beggs, city playground supervisor, said yesterday a new Winship playground is being developed at Montpelier avenue and Patterson streets.

She said the new location will allow more space for the playground, but that the present basketball court will be maintained so that it will be available for the school. Swings, racks and sandpile equipment are being moved to the new location and two tennis courts will be built there.

Mrs. Beggs also announced that a new playground for Negroes is being built at the Unionville school; the Catholic Mission for Negroes has donated the use of land in Pleasant Hill for a Negro playground for two years; an old lodge on Garden street, in East Macon, is to be used as a Negro community center and plans are being discussed for developing a wooded tract on the Central City College property into a Negro camp.

The playground supervisor also announced that a community center for whites will be opened over Kennington and Balkcom's store in East Macon for a Halloween program. She said the center may become a permanent project if people of East Macon so desire.

She said the work of enlarging activities of the playgrounds department is being financed with federal assistance and without additional expense to the city.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937 Illinois.

ANP CHIEF ON CHICAGO RECREATION COMMISSION

CHICAGO (ANP)—Mayor Edward J. Kelly last week, confirmed the Chicago City Council appointment of Claude A. Barnett, ANP director, as a member of the Chicago Recreation Commission.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Indiana

RANGERS HALT SWIM PARTY IN INDIANA

Troops Called to Prevent Negroes From Using Lake At State Resort

GARY, Ind.— (ANP) — So determined were officials of Indiana Dunes park, a state supported resort near here, to keep Negroes from swimming on the beach that state rangers were called out Sunday to intimidate a party of 30 Chicagoans and Garyites.

Heading the group was Miss Pauline Redmond, director of social welfare activities of the Chicago Urban league. Other members included John Gray, president of the youth council of the National Negro Congress; Jerome Morgan, treasurer of the statewide conference of Negro youth in Illinois, and Miss Hazel Whitlock, social service worker of Gary and daughter of the editor of the Gary American.

The case has been carried to state officials inasmuch as there is no Indiana law ordering segregation at Dunes park.

"Use End of Beach"

When the party arrived Sunday, a state ranger told members to use the extreme end of the beach "if you want no trouble." As they started in that direction, l i f e guards shunted them still farther down the Lake Michigan shore, telling them it was a ruling of the commissioners of park conservation that Negroes should be segregated. They were told to go to the custodian's home if they were dissatisfied with the arrangement.

A small group decided to use the segregated area but the others announced they would swim near where they were. The lifeguard said he would call out the state rangers if they persisted in going in and when members of the party approached the water, he telephoned for help. In a few seconds a truckload of armed rangers appeared and repeated the park ruling. The group was carried to the home of the custodian but he was not present.

Returning to the beach, they found a Negro who introduced himself as "Rev. Beasley" who had apparently been called in to help handle the situation. He, too, suggested they use the segregated area and not make trouble. As they started to call in those who had gone to the jim crow section, another life guard appeared and tried to order the swimmers stil. further down the beach to what was found to be private property and not park land at all.

As the group still protested, they were told that M. L. Reese, park director, was camping somewhere on the grounds. After he was located, Reese told them the discriminatory ruling was "for the protection of Negroes" since certain white elements might make trouble "if they all swam together."

After Miss Redmond and others talked with him, Reese finally admitted the arrangement "might be unfair" but said it was "best." He asserted this party was the only one to discuss the matter intelligently with him and said it was possible "different arrangements might be made" if colored patronage was sufficiently "high class." He promised cooperation in bringing about a change if he were contacted on his return to Indianapolis.

Because Dunes park has long been a sore spot among Negroes of northern Indiana, developments in the case are being intently watched.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Institute for Recreation Workers.

Close Five Week Training Institute For Recreation Supervisors In Washington

Journal and Guide
8-14-37
Morlock

WASHINGTON —(ANP)— An enthusiastic audience witnessed the closing on Friday night of last week of the five-weeks' training institute for recreation workers. The institute was held at the Garnet-Patterson Junior High School, and the courses included all phases of community recreation: arts and carfts, nature activities, and the physical and other play programs.

The exercises which were held at the Garnet center presented in the main three special phases: drama, music, and social recreation. Ernest T. Attwell, director of the Bureau of Colored Work, and the only national leisure time expert, presided at the closing exercises.

Mrs. Elizabeth K. Peeples, director of the Community Department, of the Department of Education, awarded certificates to the following 36 students coming from 19 states and the District of Columbia:

E. K. Anderson, Wilmington, Del.; Sarah Ellyn Avant, Wilmington, N. C.; La Verne Mason Boyer, Moston, Mass.; Doris Y. Bruce, St. Louis, Ma.; Ernestine E. Coles, New Orleans, La.; Charles F. Dunston, Raleigh, N. C.; Chester J. Gray, Columbus, Ohio; Irene L. Hooker, Columbus, Ohio; Dorothy Mae Howard, Columbus, Ohio; Stephen Edward Howe, Suffolk, Va.; Mrs. Nell Hunter, Durham, N. C.; Grace K. Johnson, Anderson, S. C.; Reba Johnson, Fredericksburg, Va.; Richard E. Lipscomb, Greenville, S. C.; Georgeanna McMechen, Baltimore, Md.; James A. Maddison, Columbus, Ohio.; Elsie Marie Miller, New York City; Eunice I. Pendergrass, Springfield, Ill.; Raymond Christopher Powell, Syracuse, N. Y.; Thelma C. Pruditt, Columbus, Ohio; Clare Bell Reason, Carterville, Ga.; Cryus T. Russell, Co? cumbus, Ohio; J. Cardner, Sams, Fla.; Mrs. Ruth Simpkins, Bowling Green, Ky.; Alberta Blanche Sims, Flint, Mich.; Corrine Sinclair, Pass Christian, Miss.; Almira I. Streets, Washington, D. C.; Theo. C. Templeton, Reading, Pa.; Herbert F. Thompson, Richmond, Va.; Otis E. Troupe, Elizabeth, N. J.; Isaiah E. Washington, Augusta, Ga.; James Patrick White, Washington, D. C.; Georgia Lee Wilkins, Cleveland, Ohio; Marian A. Williams, Washington, D. C.; Millard T. Woods, Lincoln, Nebr.; and Harriet Lucille, Kane, Pa.

Aside from Mr. Attwell, the other members of the faculty were W. W. Pangborn, pubilicty and philosophy; Frank A. Staples, arts and crafts; Miss Ethel Bowers, social recreation; Dr. Clarence Cameron White, music; and Jack Stuart Knapp, drama, of the National Recreation Association, New York City.

Parks and Play Grounds-1937

Maryland

BOARD APPROVES $22,000 PROPOSAL BY GOLF CLUB

BALTIMORE

An appropriation totaling $22,000 has been sanctioned by the park board and Mayor Jackson in answer to a proposal by the Monumental Golf Club.

Following a conference between Dr. William H. Wright and Attorney Dallas Nicholas, representing the golf club, and members of the board and the mayor, this sum was proposed to take care of improvements to the Carroll Park golf course.

$10,000 Club House

Included in this allotment are a club house to cost $10,000 and other necessary additions totalling $12,000.

The proposal has appeared before the board of estimates which has referred it to the city budget committee. Provided this latter group okays the matter it then will be taken to the city council for final decision.

This development is the culmination of three years' effort on the part of the local golf club to get a decent place for colored golfers to play. In 1934, Edward Lewis, Dr. W. H. Wright, Dr. H. S. McCard, Attorney Nicholas and others organized the Monumental Golf Club and induced the mayor to turn Carroll Park links over to colored.

This decision was rescinded when whites objected. Cclored golfers then were given certain days to use the course, with the proviso that this arrangement would exist only until a more suitable course could be furnished them.

$200 Worth of Trophies

The club held its second annual banquet Thursday at Pythian Castle, at which time officers were installed and 40 prizes, valued at $200 were awarded.

These officers were installed:

Attorney Dallas F. Nicholas, president; D. Arnett Murphy, vice president; Theodore Randolph, recording secretary; John Rich, corresponding secretary; Dr. W. H. Wright, treasurer; Neal Weaver, team captain, and Martin Grinner, chairman of golf and tournament committee.

Charles Shipley was given an honorary members of the club.

Parks and Play Grounds-1937 Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss., News
July 15, 1937

NEGRO CAMP IS DEDICATED

The new building erected by the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs on lands near Clinton given by them as a recreation center, was inspected and dedicated with fitting ceremonies by a large number of club women and scouters, accompanied by many friends of the movement.

The gathering was made up of representative people from Jackson, Natchez and Vicksburg. Enthusiastic short talks were made by Dr. S. D. Redmond of Jackson, Dr. Albert W. Dumas, Jr., of Natchez; and Dr. Poindexter of Washington, D. C.

Dr. Dumas came to the meeting to extend an invitation to the Jackson Boy Scouts to go in camp with the Boy Scouts of Natchez, Aug. 20. Elaborate preparations are being made at Natchez for the occasion, according to Dr. Dumas. The camp is located, he says, on a large lake, offering swimming facilities.

G. C. Cypress and his Scout council are busy making preparations for the Jackson Scouts to go in camp at the new recreation center near Clinton, July 20-26. Every Boy Scout is expected to spend at least two days at the camp, more if he can.

The women of the federated clubs, and girls who plan to visit the recreation camp next week, July 20-26, should get in touch at once with Lucile Price, director of junior organizations.

Parks and Play Grounds-1937 National Recreation Association.

An Unenviable Position

REPRESENTATIVES of the National Recreation Association made a report a few days ago at a meeting of city officials and interested citizens on community recreational facilities in Norfolk, incidentally affording opportunity of contrasting ours with such facilities in ten other selected cities adjacent to bodies of water.

These eleven cities, scattered in ten states, ranged in population from 42,000 to 153,000. Norfolk was in the upper population bracket, with 129,700—a figure exceeded only by two others of the eleven cities. In five study brackets the report behind Norfolk's name was "none" with one exception. It was listed as engaging two part-time recreational leaders.

The study confined itself to playgrounds, recreational centers, and indoor recreational centers entirely dedicated to a balanced recreational service, publicly maintained. There were other criteria which excluded as substandard what playgrounds, for instance, Norfolk possesses.

* * *

No city in the group, except Norfolk, hired less than three-full-time, year-round leaders—and that city had 80 part-time leaders. The next lowest cities hired six each with 8 and 49 part-time leaders, respectively. Four of the cities had 10 or more full-time recreational leaders, with Jacksonville, Florida, leading with 19.

Norfolk budgets no funds in this important field, but the other cities budgeted amounts ranging from $6,282 to $37,218. One city with equivalent population, Cambridge, Massachusetts, expends $15,390. One of the cities, with less than half the population of this city, spends $32,000 for municipally operated recreation. And so the showing runs through the cities—Jacksonville, Berkley, Cal.; Tampa, Fla.; Evanston, Ill.; Greensboro, N. C.; Charleston, S. C.; Nashville, Tenn.; Austin, Texas; Lynchburg, Va.; Wheeling, W. Va.; Cambridge, and Norfolk.

Only three of the 38 schools here have gymnasiums. All but three of the 25 white schools have auditoriums, but only three of the 13 colored school structures possess auditorium space, and one of these accommodates only 150 persons. None of the schools has athletic fields. These figures come from another report dealing specifically with school recreation facilities.

* * *

The experts mentioned earlier made numerous pertinent observations and comments, and added a few recommendations. Upon inquiry by the director of welfare, Major George W. Braden of the National Recreation Association said that the minimum outlay for a beginning of municipal recreation by means of playgrounds could hardly be under $10,000 annually—less than 10c per capita per year.

How meager a beginning, comparatively, this represents is made clear by Major Braden's remark that $3 per capita is the accepted standard and $1 per capita the present immediate minimum; and the further observation by him that between $14 and $17 per capita is now spent on one form of commercial amusement.

An outgrowth of the conference held in the City Council chambers last week a resolution was adopted requesting the city to develop its recreational facilities and lay the foundation for long-range recreational planning. As is well known, about 98 percent of Norfolk's investment in recreation, including facilities ineligible for inclusion in the present study, is available only to the majority group. The city government has for many months had before it a proposal which originally included an outdoor recreational-athletic facility, and now includes an indoor recreation-athletic-community activity center—the former being tabled for the present on the advice of municipal authorities.

It is hoped that the recent conference will focus remedial attention on the general paucity of recreational outlets in the city, and the extreme lack of such for the minority group. The continuation of the present unenviable position of the city can but raise questions as to our municipality's sense of social responsibility.

Parks and Play Grounds—1937

National Recreation Congress.

Delegates Find Color Line Despite Association Stand

ATLANTIC CITY—Only one of the sixty colored delegates to the recent National Recreation Congress studying "Adequate Recreation for Colored Groups" maintained headquarters in the Ambassador Hotel, so far as can be learned.

This, however, was not because of a discriminatory policy on the part of the hotel management, as the conference at its last meeting voted that it would not assemble in any place where the hotels would not be open to all delegates, regardless of race or color.

According to reports, the arrangement was brought about by a high official, who informed the hotel management that he himself had obtained accommodations for the colored delegates.

Housed Separately

Several delegates asserted that they had received letters stating that housing arrangements had already been made for them. Some stayed at hotels in colored sections, others at the Arctic Avenue YMCA, and in the homes of private individuals.

The delegate quartered at the hotel, was Julian D. Steele, director of Robert Gould Shaw House, Roxboro, Mass.

All sessions, with the exception of one, were interracial and held in the Ambassador. The exception was the meeting sponsored by Ernest T. Atwell, field director of the National Recreation Association, one of the leaders who sponsored the congress.

It was held at the Liberty Hotel to discuss problems in obtaining recreational facilities for colored. Two white speakers were invited to address this session.

Twelve hundred persons attended the congress. One official reported that there was little or no complaint in the general floor discussions. However, in the informal groups, it is understood that there were complaints made ocncerning inadequate recreational facilities in various communities.

Aside from those mentioned others attending the congress included:

Mrs. L. M. Crutcher, Community Recreation Association, Nashville; Miss Carolyn Hilliard, chairman of recreation committee, Interracial Council, Newark, N.J.; DeHart Hubbard, supervisor of colored work, Public Recreation Commission, Cincinnati;

Miss Ruby M. Payne, director of Crispus Attucks Recreation and Community Center, Lancaster, Pa.; Dr. Garnet C. Wilkinson, first assistant superintendent of schools, Washington, and Dr. Clarence Cameron White, bureau of colored work, National Recreation Association.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

New York.

NEGRO GIRL, 10, NAMES NEW PARK IN JAMAICA

Moses Accepts Her Suggestion That It Be Called 'Liberty,' Which 'Means a Great Deal'

A 10-year-old Negro girl's written suggestion for the name of a park now under construction in Jamaica, Queens, drew ready acceptance from Park Commissioner Robert Moses, it was disclosed yesterday when the correspondence between the two was made public.

The girl, Thelma Johnson of 110-31 166th Street, Jamaica, thought of the name while munching a sandwich in the park during the school luncheon recess. Thelma is in the fifth grade at Public School 116, not far from the park being built at Liberty Avenue and 172d Street.

As soon as she returned to school she blurted her thoughts to her teacher, who suggested that she write to Mr. Moses. She wrote:

"I'm a little girl of 10 years old. I suggest that the new park that is near Public School 116 and Liberty Avenue should be named Liberty Park. Because Liberty in our country means a great deal, and besides it means Freedom."

Mr. Moses, addressing her as "Dear Thelma," replied that the recommendation was "one of the most sensible suggetsions for naming a park and playground area that we have received." He added that he would note the name in the department records so that the area could be referred to by that name "from now on."

He explained, however, that, before the park could officially have the name, approval by the proper city authorities was needed. But he promised to t ake care of that matter in 1938.

HARLEM GETS PLAYGROUND

John D. Rockefeller Gives Deed To City On Three Plots On 150th St.

Age

12-4-37

The kids of Harlem have "Bojangles" Robinson and Park Commissioner Robert Moses to thank for a brand new stamping-ground for their hours of recreation. The new playground, a plot on the north side of West 150th street, west of Seventh avenue, 75 by 100 feet, was turned over to the city last week by the owner, John D. Rockefeller, jr., after correspondence on the matter had passed between Moses and the wealthy philanthropist-financier.

Developments revealed that first arrangements for temporary use of the property for playground purposes had been made with Mr. Rockefeller by Bill Robinson. Since that time the playground, although compartively small, has taken care of a great number of children in the congested neighborhood where recent construction of Harlem River Housing Project buildings had left little space for recreational enjoyment.

The plot donated by Mr. Rockefeller will be one of the several small playgrounds to be opened in the vicnit , Moses disclosed. "With the development of this last open area in Harlem as a housing project," explained the Park Commissioner, "it become necessary to find additional land and arrangemnts have been made with the Board of Transportation to use the block between 150th and 151st streets, just east of Seventh avenue, and with the New York City Housing Authority for the use of the property along the Harlem River in front of the housing development. A large two-block area is to be acquired with the extension of the East River drive, and probably will be located in vicinity of 145th street and the Harlem

ginning Friday. The cast includes

Dated November 17, a letter from John D. Rockefeller jr. to thee Commissioner was made public. It follows:

"Dear Mr. Moses: ....

"I have your letter of November 16 inquiring whether or not I would be willing to give the city the three lots on West 150th street which you are now operating under a temporary permit, a a playground.

"With the completion of the Federal Housing group in that neighborhood, it is quite obvious that the playground facilities are inadequate and that permanent play areas should be provided for the children of the section. In view of this and particularly because of the very remarkable record you have made in providing scores of new playgrounds for the children of the city, I am very glad to comply with your request and to cooperate with you by deeding the city this pacel of three lots on the northerly side of West 150th street and situated 100 feet west of Seventh avenue.

"To make this gift effective, a deed will be executed and transmitted to you within the next few days.

"With the kindest person gards and sincere appreciat your very notable public I am

"Very sincerely,

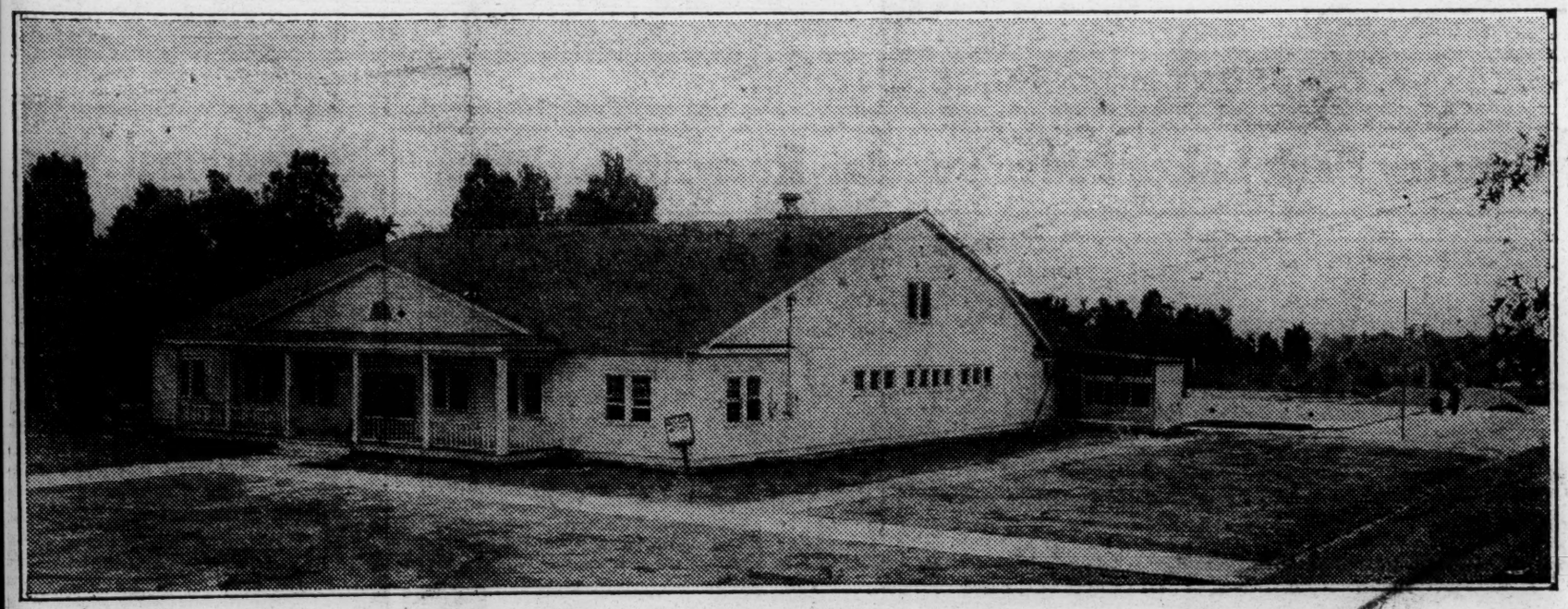
John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Parks and Play Grounds-1937

North Carolina.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 11, 1937

Nocho Park Fills Recreation Need For Negro Population of City



Pictured above is Nocho recreation park, recognized as one of the best negro recreation centers in the south, which will be opened within the next few days. The park is modernly equipped with a recreation building, bathhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts and playground. For many years a great need for the negro population in Greensboro, Nocho park will meet the demands for the colored recreation facilities in the city (Photograph by William A. Roberts.)

Charlotte, N. C., News
July 2, 1937

Saved Again

As admirable as was the discussion of J. D. Martin, former professor at Johnson C. Smith University, before the City Council Wednesday, commending that body for opening the Fairview Negro swimming pool on Sunday, and applaud as we do, we get our chief enjoyment of the every-now-and-then Blue Law session of the Council from the remarks of Rev. Dr. B. W. Swain, Negro minister. He protested against the Sunday operation of the swimming pool, for one reason, he said, because it was a discrimination against the whites, who were barred by law from swimming on Sunday.

It is a discrimination, in fact, and strikes to the heart of the whole ridiculous campaign of moral hair-splitting which the Council engages in, but Dr. Swain perhaps was not so concerned over that phase as he was in holding up the Blue Law doctrine. For white folks do have a few pleasures on Sunday. They, even the church members, on Sunday may and do go pleasure riding in automobiles, on trains, airplanes and boats. They can and do buy soft drinks and hard drinks and some other drinks not worth the money. They can and do play bridge, and poker and shoot craps. They can and do play tennis, golf, and, no doubt, mumblepeg. They invade the drug stores and roadhouses and other places which do not exactly have the atmosphere of churches. But they can't, and here's the rub, go to ball games and moving picture theaters on Sunday. That's sinful.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
July 14, 1937

Appoint Recreational Director For Colored Children Of City

R. H. Toole, colored, instructor at Logan high school for the past several years, yesterday was appointed recreational director for the colored children of this city by J. G. McEachern and Stone Sherrill, members of a two-man aldermanic committee set up recently to study and make arrangements for such a program.

Toole will have complete charge of the recreational program for the city's colored children, holding the same position that John McInnis does for the white children. The colored program will correspond to the one for white children; that is, softball, baseball, tennis and other group sports.

Toole, it was announced, will take charge today and will continue his program for two months. He will have use of the WPA facilities around Logan school and also of the school grounds, but will not necessarily confine his attentions to this section. The entire city's colored children will be united in the play.

I have [illegible] the best of my life for 27 years in Asheville and I know that many of our people are patriotic, self-respectin and industrious citizens. Many of them are loyal, civic minded, honest and uncomplaining. Surely we deserve some consideration for our children who are receiving these "rebuffs" but can't understand, and it is indeed painful to us as parents and teachers to explain. The psychological effect of these denials upon the negro youth has its counterpart in the lives of white children. Booker Washington once said, "You can't hold a man down in a ditch unless you stay down in the ditch with him." I am slow to believe that these denials meet the approval of many white people in Asheville and I am certain that such discrimination offers poor advertisement for Asheville in the estimation of other cities of our state where negro children enjoy the rich benefits of their planning.

Such incidents should cause all negroes to take a thorough self-examination and find out what causes everything he touches to become unclean and his presence objectionable. "Everything should be grist for his mills." The late Governor Bickett once advised, in speaking to a group of negroes, that they take all such problems to the best white people of their community and keep them ever before them. "Keep your troubles and ambitions," he said, "before your white friends and eventually you will be heard." We are still looking to our city authorities for a park for our negro children.

J. H. MICHAEL.
Hill Street School

Asheville N. C. Citizen
December 12, 1937

A PARK FOR NEGRO CHILDREN

Editor of The Citizen-Times:

The article in The Citizen this morning stating that a number of white citizens appeared before the city council on yesterday and protested against a negro park being located in Campbell's woods, near our school, is enough to cause the heart of every negro in Asheville to feel deeply depressed. Just a few weeks ago a number of white citizens appeared before the city council and protested against the Ashland Avenue school building being used for negroes. Some months ago a number of white citizens protested against the old jail being used as a recreation center for negroes. These protests and objections are being taken very seriously by the best negroes of Asheville. Many of us are beginning to think that we are being tolerated and carried along as just so much "excess baggage."

North Carolina

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
July 16, 1937

Negroes Give Three Cheers As Hillside Park Is Opened

C. C. Spaulding Tells Group To "Thank God And Take Fresh Courage"—Morehead Presides Over Ceremonies—Wheeler Represents WPA

C. C. Spaulding led a crowd of fellow Hayti residents in three cheers for J. L. Morehead, chairman of the recreation commission, and C. R. Wood, director of recreation, at the opening yesterday afternoon of Hillside park.

"Thank God and take fresh courage," Spaulding told the Negroes who will use the pool. "This is a wonderful opportunity . . . and I want to appeal to you today to make use of it in the proper manner."

Morehead, who acted as master-of-ceremonies, and Supt. W. F Warren, who spoke on the part of the recreation commission, likewise stressed the proper use of the recreation center, seeing in it a means to strengthen morale and decrease crime and juvenile delinquency.

The park, consisting mainly of a $75,000 swimming pool, was presented to the city on behalf of the works progress administration by W. F. Wheeler of Raleigh, district head of the WPA.

Wheeler pointed out that besides providing valuable facilities for recreation, the pool also gave training to workmen when it was built. "The expense of this pool," Wheeler asserted, "as far as the government is concerned, is nil in comparison with the benefits the people of this community will gain."

To Mayor W. F. Carr, who accepted the park on behalf of the city, the recreation center will be a means of promoting civic loyalty, he said.

Superintendent Warren spoke in the place of Mrs. Mamie Dowd Walker, juvenile court judge and recreation commission member who was unable to appear on the program. He urged the Negroes to protect the pool "as a piece of valuable property" and to protect themselves, too, in the use of it by taking precautions against spreading disease.

A demonstration of swimming and life saving methods was given by members of the Durham Life Saving corps. There was to have been a diving exhibition also, but the springboard was found to be broken.

The program was broadcast by WDNC.

Following the formal opening ceremonies, a free swim period was held for children, who crowded into the bathhouse. The pool will be closed this morning, however, to allow time for odds and ends of construction, but will be opened at 4 o'clock this afternoon. It probably will be necessary to close it Monday morning also, Morehead announced, to finish up the work.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
August 6, 1937

NEGROES ASK CITY COUNCIL TO BUILD PARK, POOL HERE

DR. L. O. MILLER, Asheville negro physician, presented a petition signed by more than 1,200 persons at yesterday's city council meeting asking that a negro park and swimming pool be provided here.

Recently Dr. Miller told the council a number of negroes would contribute small amounts toward such a park, and expressed the hope that it could be constructed as a WPA project.

Mayor R. M. Wells told him that the council had discussed the request and would grant it, if possible.

An appropriation of $2,000 was carried in the budget for this fiscal year, adopted yesterday, for a negro park.

The council authorized two quit claim deeds, one to Mrs. Sarah L. Johnson for the abandoned Sand Hill road right-of-way which her property adjoins, and another to Ella Stewart to correct typographical errors in a former deed.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
August 7, 1937

Playgrounds For Colored Boys And Girls Are Proving Popular

The number of visitors to the different playground units for colored children has increased to 1,919 for the close of the present week. The various activities engaged in are enjoyed by both children and adults. In the baseball league, the Georgia Avenue Sluggers, composed of boys who live west of Georgia avenue, are leading the league. The Sidesville Giants and the Happy Hill Nine hold second and third places, respectively.

The Junior Giants, composed of players selected from various teams in the league, hiked to Silver Hill Friday for a 26-10 victory over the Silver Hill players. Though the local boys were matched against older and more experienced players, they showed their ability to keep their eyes on the ball. The batting of the entire team was good. A large number of playground children accompanied the team and enjoyed the outing.

Interest in recreation among older boys and adults has resulted in the organization of softball church teams. The Lutherans have challenged the Price Memorial A. M. E. Z. players to a three-game series of softball. The first game was won by the Methodists, 9-6. The remaining two games will be played Monday and Tuesday of next week.

R. H. TOOLE, Director of Recreation for Colored Children.

PLANT CALLED BEST OF TYPE IN THE SOUTH

Harry Parker, Former A. And T. College Coach Is Director

GREENSBORO, N. C., Aug. 13—One of the finest recreation centers for members of the Negro race in the South has recently been completed here in the Nocho Park Community Center and swimming pool.

The center, which has been rated as one of the finest of its kind in the South, comprises a beautiful Community Center building, swimming pool, outdoor tennis and volley ball courts, picnic grounds, playgrounds, and baseball diamonds. The general supervision of the construction of the center has been under the direction of Daniel Neel, director of recreation for the city of Greensboro, and WPA engineers.

The dedicatory exercises at the Center have been announced for Thursday, August 12, when city notables and officials, community leaders of both races, and representatives of the YMCA, schools, and colleges, American Legion, Boy Scouts, civic clubs, and other community agencies will be represented. Bathers will begin swimming on Friday morning.

Features of the Plant

Outstanding features of the new swimming plant include spacious dressing and shower rooms, adequate basket-room and checking service, modern filters and chlorinators and other purifying apparatus, as well as a well trained staff, which includes the men's director and assistant, women's director and assistant, director and four Red Cross life guards, two regular locker room attendants, and grounds keeper.

Excellent administration of the plant and careful supervision and control of bathers is expected, making for safe and healthful bathing by the members of the community. Harry K. Parker, former basketball coach at A. and T. college, has been selected as director of the center.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
August 12, 1937

WILL DEDICATE SWIMMING POOL

Negro Recreation Center At Nocho Park Will Be Officially Opened Today

A special water exhibition will follow the dedication services at Nocho park this afternoon when the new negro swimming pool and recreation center, constructed through WPA funds, is officially presented to the city.

The formal opening of the pool is scheduled for 5 o'clock this afternoon, at which time Capt. W. E. Cole, of the WPA, will make the presentation of the facilities to Mayor Roger W. Harrison.

Featuring the formal opening services will be an address by Dr W. C. Jackson, administrative dean of Woman's college, who will talk on the inter-racial situation.

Following the dedication of the community center and pool, a special swimming and water exhibition will be staged by the park staff and others who have volunteered to assist.

Daniel R. Neal, city recreational director, who recently announced that Harry K. Parker would have charge of Nocho park, today announced that William Thomas has been selected as assistant director; Conrad Raiford has been named head life guard, and McHenry Norman and George Windsor have been selected as other life guards.

These staff members will take part in the water exhibition together with Charles Groves, Boy Scout life saver; Prof. Harry Green, of the A. and T. college faculty, and French Davis, Ernest McCoy and Thomas Conrad, students at A. and T. college.

Included on the program will be a life saving demonstration, a demonstration of taking clothes off in water, stunts, sprints and fancy diving.

Following the presentation of the pool to the city by Captain Cole, several speakers will talk briefly, these including Herbert S. Falk, chairman of the recreation commission, Rev. J. T. Hairston, Dr. Waddy L. Jones, Dr. F. D. Bluford and Mamie Scarlett.

Greensboro, N. C., News
August 13, 1937

Nocho Park, Built At Cost Of $60,000, Is Dedicated

Negro Recreational Center Formally Presented to City By Capt. W. E. Cole, of WPA—Dr. W. C. Jackson and Other Speakers Are Heard.

Nocho park, negro recreation center, constructed through a WPA project at a cost of approximately $60,000 was formally dedicated late Thursday afternoon when Capt. W. E. Cole, of the WPA, presented the plant and its facilities to the city. Mayor Roger W. Harrison accepted on behalf of the city.

In addition to Mayor Harrison, several other official representatives of the city were on hand, including Councilman Ralph L. Lewis, City Manager Andrew Joyner, Jr., George C. Eichhorn, city clerk and purchasing agent, and Mrs. C. O. Burton, vice chairman of the city school board.

Dr. Jackson Is Speaker.

Dr. W. C. Jackson, dean of administration of Woman's college, was the dedication speaker. He reviewed the progress of the negro race since the war between the states, stressing the fact that the negro has taken the advantages offered for his betterment. As an instrument of more wholesome and healthful living, Nocho park will be of inestimable benefit to the negroes of Greensboro, Dr. Jackson declared.

Rev. R. T. Weatherby, D. D., acted as master of ceremonies during the exercises.

Captain Cole, in presenting the center to the city, pointed out that the work of construction had provided around 60 men with employment over a period of approximately two years.

Mayor Harrison made a brief speech of acceptance and was followed by Herbert S. Falk, chairman of the recreation commission, who spoke on behalf of the recreation program of the city, of which the center is a part.

Other talks were made by Prof J. A. Tarpley, of the negro recreation committee, and Mamie Scarlett, representing the negro public; Rev. J. T. Hairston, Dr. Waddly L. Jones and Dr. F. D. Bluford.

A general inspection of the swimming pool and plant followed the exercises.

Water Exhibition.

Last night a water exhibition was carried out in the swimming pool, including a life saving demonstration, stunts, sprints and fancy diving.

The dedication of the center culminates efforts over a period of several years to provide adequate recreation facilities for the negroes of the city. The new center, with its pool, bathhouse, quarters for indoor activities and playgrounds, is considered one of the best in the state, with accommodations for large attendances.

Harry K. Parker has been selected as supervisor of the center, with William Thomas as assistant director, according to an announcement by Daniel R. Neal, city recreation director. Conrad Raiford has been named as head lifeguard, with McHenry Norman and George Windsor as assisting lifeguards.

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
August 24, 1937

New Athletic Field Planned For Negroes

Superintendant of Schools H. M. Roland announced yesterday materials are being purchased for the construction of a new athletic field for negro children near Williston Industrial school. The field will occupy a full city block just east of the negro high school.

The new field will replace the old 13th and Ann ball park, which is to be used as a drill ground by the New Hanover high school junior R. O. T. C. unit now being established under the command of Major William Van Dyke Ochs.

Asheville N. C., Citizen
December 2, 1937

City To Buy 22-Acre Tract For Negro Park

A 22-acre tract known as the Campbell woods, behind the Hill street (negro) school, will be bought by the city and developed as a negro park, City Manager P. M. Burdette said yesterday.

For several years city officials have considered purchasing this property for a negro park but objection of white citizens in the section, particularly those on lower Houston street, has prevented it.

A resolution authorizing the purchase of the property from Mrs. Margaret J. Campbell for $1,000, the city assuming all unpaid taxes, is expected to be offered at this afternoon's weekly meeting of city council.

Mr. Burdette said the WPA will be asked to cooperate in clearing the tract this winter and that it will be developed as a playground as finances permit. Eventually, playground equipment will be set up, a swimming pool constructed and other improvements made.

Policemen and Firemen—1937

North Carolina.

Greenville N. C.
Reflector
Aug. 19-1937

Negro Volunteers Win First Honors At State Meeting

Local Firefighters Walk Off With Top Honors at Annual State Convention in Farmville

Greenville's colored volunteer firemen won first place in the state championship race at the annual convention held in Farmville today and were awarded the championship belt.

The Negro firemen came in second in the short race and also second in the long race, being defeated in both by the East Spencer firemen.

The local fire fighters came in first in the foot race. Seven towns were represented in the various contests. In the championship race Greenville won in 18 and four-fifths seconds. East Spencer firemen ran the 100-yards in 20 and two-fifths seconds, to come in second. Wilson was third in 20 and three-fifths.

The annual convention of the Negro fire department started Monday and lasted through today. The races were the final events on the program. The association voted to meet next year in Wilson. Approximately 14 colored members of the Greenville fire department attended the meeting. George Gardner of the Greenville department was on the committee and attended the races.

FARMVILLE, N. C. — The North Carolina Negro Volunteer Fire Association opened its forty-seventh annual session, Tuesday of last week in the auditorium of the Farmville high school building. A program was rendered by several local people and a special musical selection was rendered by Miss Vallie Craige, of East Spencer. Hon. George W. Davis, mayor of Farmville, and Haylock Smith, fire-chief, officially welcomed the firemen.

There was a street parade and a hook and ladder race on Wednesday and Tarboro won, received the prize of the Silver Trumpet. In the evening a ball was given. Long distance hose reel races, which were won by East Spencer, Greenville, Warrenton, and Oxford were presented Thursday. A foot race was held in the afternoon and was won by Greenville; and a reel race, with Greenville receiving the Silver Belt. A barbecue dinner followed.

Officers elected for 1937-38 were as follows: Dr. J. W. Grimes, president; J. B. Plummer, vice; Prof L. H. Hall, treasurer; J. N. Nixon, financial secretary; Pete Collins recording secretary; the Rev. D. A Willis, chaplain; C. R. Miller statistician; Harvey Brown, chief marshal; and J. E. Cooper, and S. Lyon on the financial committee. The next meeting, 1938, will be held in Wilson, N. C.

N. C. Volunteer Firemen Meet In Farmville

Journal and Guide
8/28/37

Mayor Welcomes 47th Annual Session At High School

Morganton, Va.

Parks and Play Grounds-1937.

North Carolina.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
January 16, 1937

Bad Bargain

The effort of Rev. E. C. Lawrence and other Negro leaders to preserve for the Negro children of Raleigh the old Washington school site as a playground should have the support of every person of both races who is interested in the welfare of the children of Raleigh.

The City of Raleigh is not so poor that it desperately needs the $2,500 which has been bid for this property. But the Negro children of Raleigh are too poor in playgrounds to be deprived of this area.

No children in the South need playgrounds more than the Negro children of cities and towns, so many of whom are crowded together in poverty along streets upon which increasingly dangerous automobile traffic moves. Out of such crowded poverty, regardless of race, grows much of our delinquency, much of our crime. And for the sake of the safety of both the children and the community, not less but more playground space should be provided.

Definitely this matter is not one of interest only to the Negroes of Raleigh. It concerns every person interested in the welfare of the city. Children are human and, denied the opportunity to play under proper surroundings, they will play under improper ones. As much as the school the playground shapes the good citizen or the bad one. If Raleigh is interested in its future, it will not give up an agency for making good ones for a paltry $2,500.

Greensboro, N. C., News
April 7, 1937

City Asked to Finish Work On Nocho Recreation Park

Delegation Appears Before Council to Urge Completion of Negro Center—Contract Let For Stoker At City Pumping Station—Jarvis Made Chief.

Pleas for some steps on the part of the city to comple or have completed the Nocho park recreation center for activities, which has been in process of desultory construction for the past two years, were pressed at the meeting of the city council Tuesday afternoon.

The center, one of the outstanding projects designed for wholesome activities among the negro population of the city, is sorely needed and should be completed in time to be opened this summer, it was pointed out by Dr. R. T. Weatherby, Methodist minister. The work was originally estimated to cost around $35,000 but there is still needed approximately 12,000 for materials before the work can proceed, and there apparently is no hope of obtaining the necessary amount from the state WPA office, it was declared.

Others Make Plea.

Dr. Weatherby and other negro citizens were joined in their pleas by Herbert S. Falk, chairman of the city recreation commission, who stated that the center is a vital factor and should have been completed long ago. In view of the city's investment already made and the good that could be accomplished through the center, Mr. Falk urged the council to give serious consideration to letting the city go ahead and finish the work.

City Manager Andrew Joyner, Jr., said he was thoroughly convinced there was no hope of obtaining further WPA funds through the state office and that the only resource in that direction was to appeal directly to Harry Hopkins, federal WPA administrator.

Seek Truant Officer.

Another petition in behalf of the negro population was presented, containing numerous names, and asking that a negro truant and probation officer be appointed to work among the negro children. There has been no such officer for three years and the situation of delinquency is becoming serious among the negro children, it was declared.

Inasmuch as the truant measures are a part of the city school work and probation work that of the juvenile court, it was agreed to present the matter to the juvenile court for consideration and to take other steps with a view toward providing for such an officer in the next fiscal budget.

C. W. Smedberg, city director of public works and service, presented bids received for the installation of automatic stokers at the city pumping station. His recommendation that the contract be awarded to the local firm of Crutchfield-Sullivan company at a price of $13,495 was adopted. There were two other bids, both lower, but on the basis of efficiency, durability and economy of operation, the stokers specified in the higher bid were favored. The other two firms bidding were the Carolina Heating and Plumbing company, of Durham, $13,154, and the Combustion Engineering company, of Charlotte, $13,419.

The petition of property owners and business operators in the 400 block of West Market street that this block be limited to one-hour parking was approved, along with another amendment eliminating the angle parking on South Elm street from the railway to Lee street.

B. E. Smith, who owns property at the corner of Lee and Pearson streets, made a plea for relief in the matter of drainage damage to his property.

There are several other similar places with inadequate drainage in the city, and Mr. Smith's petition was listed for serious consideration.

Jarvis Made Chief.

During the council meeting City Manager Joyner presented L. L. Jarvis to the council members with the announcement of his appointment as chief of police. Chief Jarvis has been serving as acting chief since M. D. Caffey tendered his resignation several weeks ago.

Two residents of Brandt street, which runs from the Winston-Salem road across to the High Point road, asked that traffic markers and a fire alarm be installed on the street. It was agreed that the markers would be put up immediately, while the matter of the fire alarm was referred to Fire Chief Frank D. Shaw.

The city was tendered a deed for a strip approximately six feet wide on the Morehead tract at the corner of Greene and Sycamore streets, which was given the city for the widening of Sycamore street in return for the cancellation of interest on assessments due, amounting to $920.43.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
April 9, 1937

NEGRO POOL IS READY HERE FOR SUMMER SEASON

Negro Populace Will Have Swimming Pool Operated Under City Rules.

The Negro population of Winston-Salem will this year for the first time be able to enjoy a swimming pool operated by the city under the direction of the city recreation department. The swimming pool constructed through a WPA project, sponsored by the city, on the Fourteenth Street School grounds is now completed and will be ready for use when the other pools in the city open for the summer.

Complete in every detail, the pool has a bath house connected and has filtration equipment. It has every modern convenience and is built on the largest and best design for civic swimming pools.

George W. Coan Jr., former mayor of the city and now state WPA administrator, was much interested in the project and it was due greatly to his efforts that the pool was constructed. The city officials have been interested in such a project for some time and are appreciative of the interest taken by the WPA in approving the project and completing it. The city, as sponsor, contributed to the cost of the pool and equipment.

L. B. Hathaway, director of the city recreation department, will have charge of this pool, along with the other pools in the city. Life guards will be on hand during the season and the pool will operate under the same restrictions as others here, it is understood.

Hickory, N. C. Record
June 12, 1937

WADING POOL NEARLY READY FOR NEGROES

The new wading pool, now being constructed near the Ridgeview school for the colored children of the city, is rapidly nearing completion, and is expected to be ready for use by the middle of next week, it was learned today.

All work on the pool itself, including the pouring of the concrete, has been finished, and City Engineer H. K. Setzer, who is in charge, expects to lay the pipe lines for the water supply immediately. He has been using his regular crew of workmen for the greater part of the project.

The pool measures sixteen by thirty feet, with a depth of two feet, and is located on a plot of ground, three acres in size, recently purchased by the Ridgeview school board.

The east Hickory playground, built for the colored children of that section two years ago, will also be reopened soon, Rev. J. H. Armbrust said this morning.

It was first constructed through the efforts of the Hickory Woman's Club, and equipped by George F. Ivey, but, as the original park has fallen into disrepair, new equipment has been ordered, and will probably be installed early next week, the minister stated. The wading pool there is also being cleaned out and new pipe lines are being laid, he added.

One distinctive feature of the playground is a large spring of pure water, from which the supply to the pool will be drawn, Rev Mr. Armbrust said. The spring was "concreted" by Mr. Ivey at the time the playground was first opened, he said.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
June 9, 1937

Dedication of Negro Pool Project Is Slated Tonight

George W. Coan, WPA administrator for North Carolina, will formally present the Negro swimming pool recently completed at the Atkins High-Fourteenth Street School to the city of Winston-Salem at special dedication exercises this evening at 6 o'clock.

The pool, modern in every way, was constructed at a cost of approximately $30,000, of which approximately $25,000 was given by the WPA, the city gave approximately $3,000 and Negro citizens subscribed approximately $500.

Forty-five feet wide and 105 feet long, the pool has depths varying from three to nine feet. It is equipped with filters, recirculation pump and chlorinators and vacuum cleaners for pool walls and floor when needed.

Part of the project includes the bath-house, which is 32 by 90 feet in size, and equipped with hot and cold showers and dressing compartments.

The pool and bath-house constitute a WPA project with the city and Negro citizens as sponsors.

The project was designed by the department of public works and approved by the board of health.

Dr. R. S. Hairston, chairman of the Winston-Salem Committee on Negro Affairs, will preside at the ceremonies this evening.

Mayor W. T. Wilson will accept the pool on behalf of the city and Luther E. Martin, member of the board of aldermen, will accept for the city recreation department as chairman of the recreation committee.

Irma Neal Henry, chairman of the recreation committee of the Winston-Salem . Committee on Negro Affairs, will make an address stating the occasion.

After the dedication ceremonies, the pool will be thrown open to both men and women until 9 o'clock in the evening. Beginning Thursday, the regular recreation schedule will become effective.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
June 27, 1937

NEGRO INDEPENDENCE DAY TO BE OBSERVED JULY 5

Celebration of Independence Day for negroes will be held at Selwyn Park, on Oakland avenue, Monday, July 5, it was announced yesterday.

There will be a baseball game between the Washington Heights Champions and the Brooklyn Cubs. The Monroe brass band will present music and refreshments will be served. The celebration is to be in the interest of the Religious Training school. White spectators are invited to attend.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
June 22, 1937

Open Negro Park Today: Install Carrousel Soon

Raleigh's new Negro recreational park, which has cost well over $100,000, will be opened for the first time today but formal dedication probably will be delayed several weeks pending completion of work.

The swimming pool, however, has been completed and will be opened today, Public Works Commissioner S. J. Ferguson announced.

Begun in December, 1935, the park, when lanscaped, will be one of the finest in the South for Negroes, officials have declared. The city has about $15,000 invested in the project, WPA bearing the remainder of the cost.

City officials yesterday contracted to purchase a merry-go-round for the park and delivery of the machine is expected by July 4. Workers will come here from Wilkes Barre, Pa., to set up the carrousel, which was bought for $4,000.

"We hope to have the merry-go round operating on July 4," Commissioner Ferguson said. "Other equipment will be added later."

George Mitchell, formerly in charge of WPA recreational work, will superivse operation of the park for the city.

Selection of a name for the park, located in the southeastern section of the city, is under consideration. Officials said a suggestion had been made that it be named "Roosevelt Park" in honor of the President.

Admission prices to the pool for children have been set at 15 cents and for adults 25 cents.

Other price schedules are identical with those in force at Pullen Park.

Playgrounds, a baseball diamond and picnic grounds are included in the park's facilities.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 12, 1937

Negroes Qualify For Certificates

Three Greensboro negroes have qualified for American Red Cross senior life saving certificates, the first time that any member of the negro race here has reached the high rank, Miss Ellen I. Rochford, chapter secretary, announced Monday.

The certificates were won at the life saving class which is now in session. The three qualifying were McHenry Norman, William Thomas and Conrad Raiford. More instructional classes will be given when the Nocho park pool is opened.

The instructions and examinations were given the negro candidates by R. D. Douglas, Jr., chairman of the life saving committee of the local Red Cross chapter, H. E. Clary, Richard Klingman, Chester Arnold and Howard Murray The class was sponsored by the negro division of the city recreation commission.

Beaufort, N. C., News
July 15, 1937

Edgewater Club May Become Negro Resort

New Owners Plan To Open Resort By August 15

SIMMONS WILL RECEIVE $125,000 FOR PROPERTY

Swanky Edgewater Club on Bogue Sound, four miles west of Morehead City may become the swankiest Negro resort along the Atlantic coast if plans revealed here yesterday by Mark Mohler materialize. The club property will be sold by its owner F. M. Simmons to Mohler—or the interests he represents— for $125,000 under the terms of a sales contract filed with Register of Deeds Irvin W. Davis Wednesday.

Of the total amount $6,250 has been paid down on the property and Mohler will assume control of the property when the balance of the down payment of $18,000 is paid, the News and Observer was informed last night by F. M. Simmons from his home in Berwyn, Md., where he was reached by long distance telephone.

From an authoritative source it was reported that Mohler represents a group of wealthy Negroes who will attempt to develop the property as a resort for members of their race. It was revealed here yesterday that preliminary plans are to expend upwards of $25,000 for immediate improvements to include the construction of bath houses, tourist cabins, and concession stands with the possibility that the formal opening of the resort will be not later than August 15. Plans are to operate not one but several excursion trains each week from cities throughout the east to the resort.

News and Observer editors were skeptical at first about the story but when given some confidential information by their coastal correspondent and following up same by other long-distance telephone calls to persons who might or might not know about the plans the story was front-paged.

At first they thought it might be the shrewd scheme of a real estate agent to dispose of the property through other channels. From an authoritative source it was learned that not even F. M. Simmons knew that the party to whom the property will be sold according to terms of the contract, knew that the party represented a group of Negroes high in the financial, educational and religious world of their race.

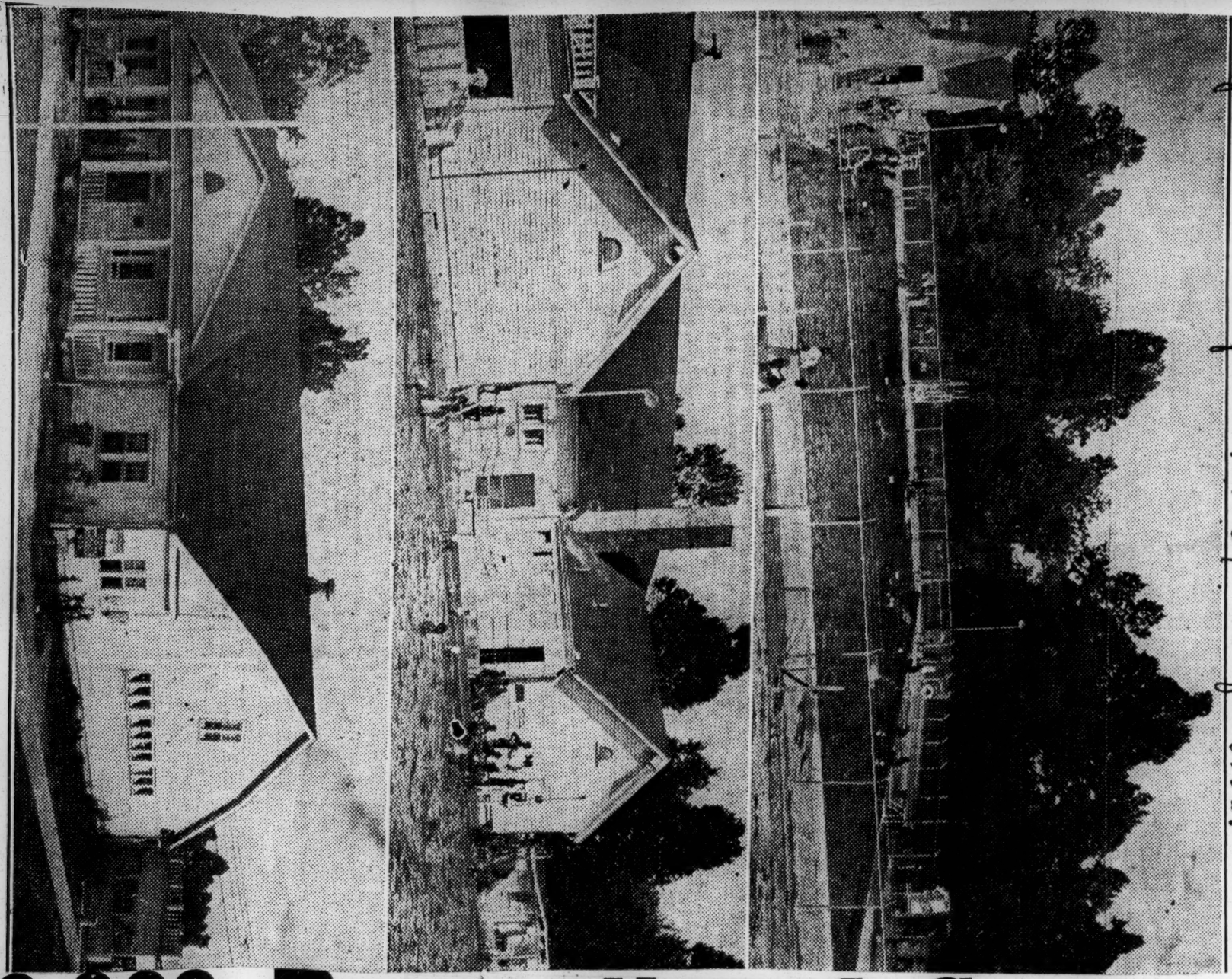
Morehead City business interests were alarmed at the reports and were of the opinion that such a resort would seriously handicap the westward growth of their town. On the other hand, plans revealed, indicated that from ten to twenty five thousand Negroes would visit the resort each week, when and if the plans materialize.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

North Carolina.

MODERN RECREATIONAL CENTER AT GREENSBORO

Source: Guide 9-11-37 Newspaper, Va.



At the top is a view of the William Windsor Swimming Pool at Greensboro, recently constructed by the WPA and the Greensboro Recreation Department for the use of colored citizens. The center photo shows the purification plant and bathhouse building. The lower view is of the recreation center. The project is located in Nocho Park. (Journal and Guide Photos).

$60,000 Recreational Center Serves Greensboro's Citizens

Attendance Figures Show 3,500 Escaped Blistering Summer Heat During First Two Weeks Of Its Operation

Staff Correspondence

GREENSBORO, N. C. — In the two weeks of its operation the William Windsor Swimming Pool, recently constructed by the WPA and the Greensboro Recreation Department at the Recreation Center in Nocho Park, has served over 3,500 bathers and has provided escape from the blistering summer heat as well as recreational opportunities for thousands of the city's young people who had been forced to seek out unhealthy and dangerous swimming holes before this development had been completed.

In addition to the large swimming pool, 150 feet by 75 feet, the Center includes a beautiful white bungalow type structure, a modern gymnasium for basketball, dancing, and other indoor sports, outdoor tennis and volleyball courts, picnic grounds, playgrounds, and a field for baseball and football.

The plant as it now stands represents an investment of over $60,000. Workmen recently began construction of bathhouses on each side of the building to replace the temporary bathhouses established in the gymnasium.

The activities of the Center are in charge of an all-colored personnel, which is headed by Harry K. Parker, former A. and T. College basketball coach and Instructor, who is the director. He is assisted by a well qualified staff of young men and women.

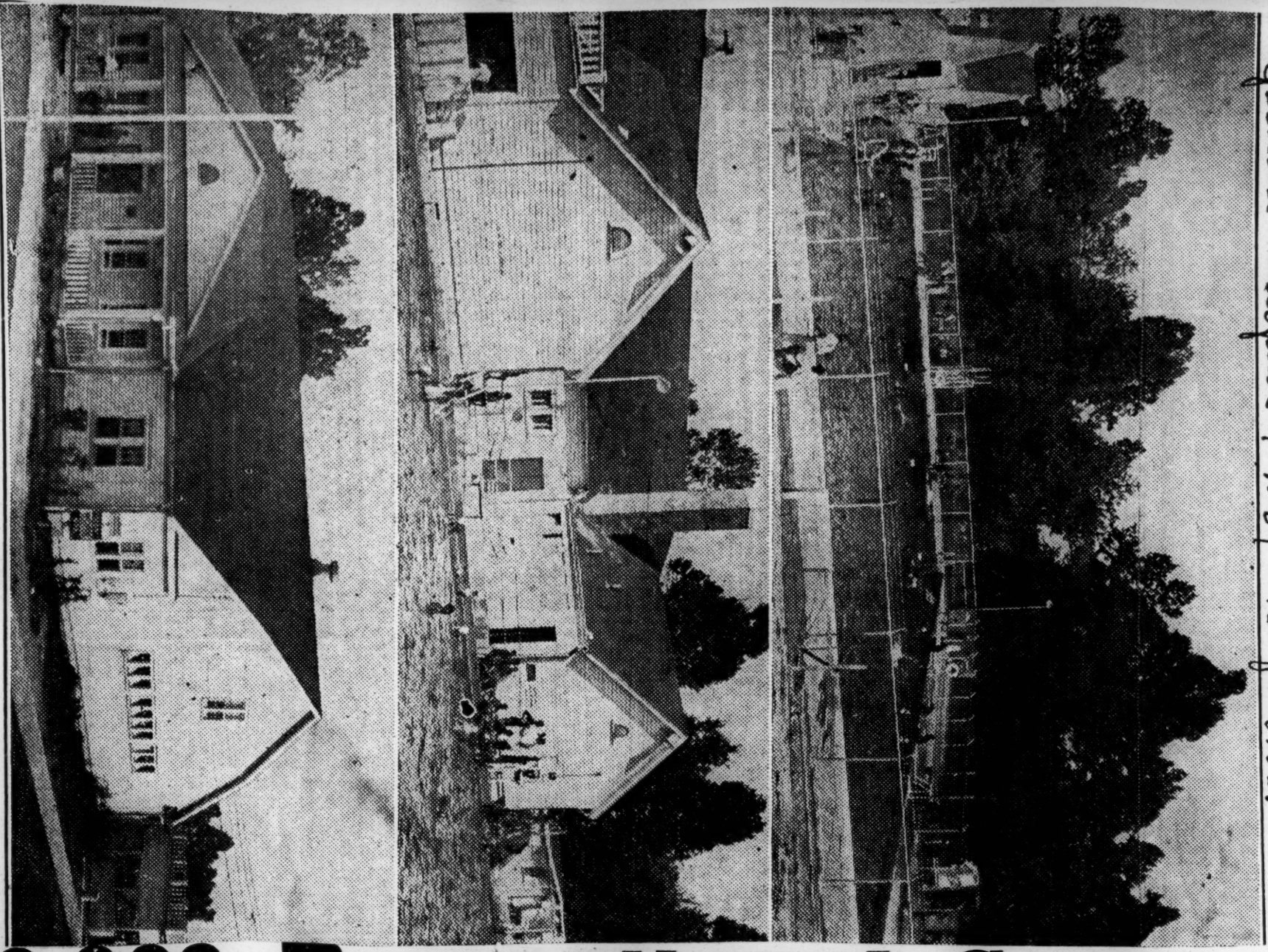
Daily instruction in swimming, life saving, water polo, diving, and other water games is available to all interested persons free of charge. Intercity and local swimming meets are frequently held.

This development is another in a series of swimming pools and recreational centers built recently in all of the larger cities of North Carolina. Similar pools are found in Raleigh, Durham, High Point, Winston-Salem. and Charlotte.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

North Carolina.

MODERN RECREATIONAL CENTER AT GREENSBORO
Greensboro Guide 9-11-37 Newspaper, N.C.



At the top is a view of the William Windsor Swimming Pool at Greensboro, recently constructed by the WPA and the Greensboro Recreation Department in Nocho Park, as it looks from the air. The lower view is of the recreation center. The project is located in Nocho Park. (Journal and Guide Photos).

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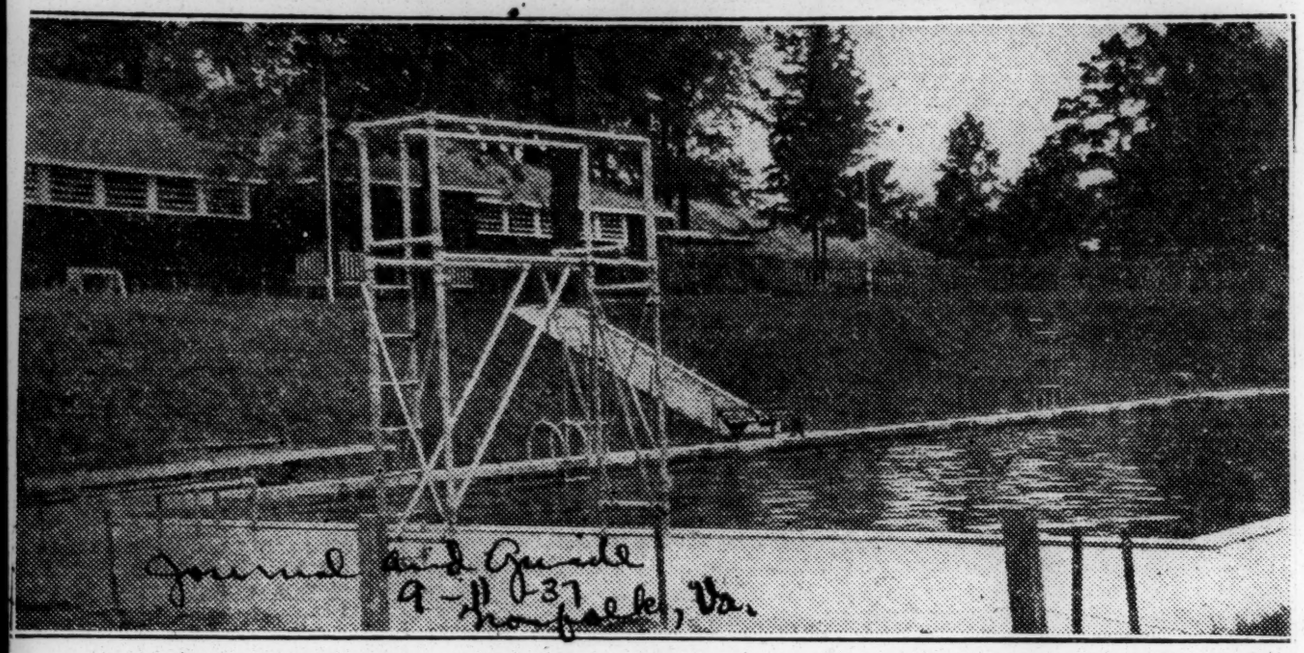
SWIMMING POOL AT DURHAM IS AID TO HEALTH



A view of the swimming pool at Durham, N. C., for colored residents, with the purification building and bathhouse in the background. The pool is one of several for our group in North Carolina cities, provided within recent years or authorized, and financed jointly with federal, and state or local government funds. (Journal and Guide Photo).

Asheville N C Times
December 17, 1937

SITE ON DEPOT STREET FAVORED FOR NEGRO PARK

Committee Makes Recommendation At Meeting Of City Council.

W. B. Cathey reported to the city council yesterday that the committee appointed by Mayor R. M. Wells to look into the question of a suitable site for a negro park had located such a site on Depot street just off Walton street.

The committee, composed of Mr. Cathey, Gray Gorham and City Manager P. M. Burdette, had looked at a number of possible sites in the city and concluded that the place selected was the best location. Mr. Cathey said that it was suitably located, was fairly level and could be easily reached with water and sewer connections.

The committee was appointed by the council after a large delegation of citizens had protested against the location of the park in Campbell's woods north of the Hill street school.

City Manager Burdette said that the Depot street property is held by a real estate company, and that he believed it could be obtained by the city for a reasonable price.

The council authorized Mayor Wells to sign a quit-claim deed to W. E. Shuford and H. K. Donaldson for a lot in Haw Creek, bid in at a public sale for the minimum price authorized by the council.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Oklahoma.

"Public Enemy No. 1"

"And the mountain labored and brought forth a mouse."

After all of this talk of a 30-acre Negro park in the Minnie Page addition, indulged in by the city council, and sponsored by that arch-Negrophobist, Councilman Jack Moore, and in spite of the warnings given by the Black Dispatch, the city fathers now admit that the Black Dispatch is right and the council is wrong.

We said at the outset that there were no 30-odd acres of land available in the Minnie Page tract, but our judgment and thorough investigation of the facts were set aside. Even the Oklahoma City Times and its editor assumed to support the idea and notion that the Black Dispatch did not know what it was talking about when we pointed out that most of the land previously discussed was a part of the right-of-way of the Rock Island Railroad.

The fact that City Attorney Harlan Deupree was this week instructed to convert nine acres located on part of the same land discussed, into a Negro park, is proof positive we were absolutely correct in the information assembled on this important subject.

Think of it! The city of Oklahoma City today has a five-million dollar park system covering more than 2,000 acres of land. Five hundred acres of this land is within the city limits.

Think of the integrity of a city government taking a 17-acre park away from Negroes under an agreement to use the money derived from oil development on said property to purchase a larger and more commodious park.

Think of the dishonor and lack of integrity in a city government refusing to give Negroes any semblance of recreational facilities after collecting more than $300,000 in oil royalties from the former Negro park.

The white man or woman who can salve his conscience following contemplation of these truths deserves to be pitied. Under such conditions the Negroes are deprived of a park but in the realm of morals white people lose inestimably more. Governor Marland this week named a local citizen as "Public Enemy No. 1." We wish to correct the governor in his thinking. Race prejudice in Oklahoma City is Public Enemy No. 1."

Our Costly Legal Advice

Negroes had to pay pretty dearly when the city attorney's office delivered an opinion to the city fathers sometime ago, that segregation was legal and drew an ordinance later invalidated by the state supreme court. Nobody thought seriously of the cost to Negroes in fighting this case or the cost to the taxpayers generally because of such bone-head advice. Black Dispatch

But the entire citizenship immediately becomes alarmed when the supreme court of the state in its recent decision declares that the city has no title to Civic Center property. Again we discover that we have been accepting bone-head advice from the city's legal department. This time it costs us four million dollars, with our county courthouse, auditorium and city hall thrown in. 2-13-37

Nobody paid any attention to the Black Dispatch several months ago when we pointed out that the new contemplated park site approved by this same legal department of the city, was not available for the reason that it belonged to the Rock Island Railway company. We cited the fact that the city had the right to condemn this property, but that the railroad would have the right to claim damages covering the entire length of the right of way. We cited a Memphis court decision to back up this allegation.

The recent action of the supreme court regarding revisionary rights connected with the Rock Island right of way proved that if the city were to condemn and reclaim this tract, the heirs to this property could come in with the same revisionary claims as those affirmed by the supreme court in Civic Center. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Now comes Phil Daugherty and others of the Eastside Civic club, and proposes that another park site be selected south of the Rock Island tracks, in the known flood district of the North Canadian river. We wonder whether Mr. Walter Harrison of the Daily Oklahoman staff, who said he would not join in a plan to "sell the Negro down the river," will approve this arrangement?

Here's The Record Regarding Hassman Park

The Hassman Park issue has dragged along across a period of years, and so long until incoming councilmen do not know what actually happened in this transaction. During the course of a conference at the city hall last week the question was asked by one of the councilmen: "What has ever been done about this park, any way? I don't quite understand it. Did we actually dedicate this park to Negroes?" Black Dispatch

No one, not even the city attorney, seemed to be able to give this inquiring councilman information. He went on to say that if the city had actually entered into such an agreement it should carry out that agreement to the letter. We think that position is correct and sound. To employ the language of Capp Jefferson, "We entered into an agreement with gentlemen and we hope there are still gentlemen down at the city hall." 2-20-37

We had a gentlemen's agreement with the city council that the countil would buy the Hassman's tract out of funds derived from the money accrueing from oil bonus and royalties secured in the Booker Washington Park lease. Hassman Park was purchased and the park board set aside the 19th day of June, 1933, as the date when this tract would be formally opened to Negro use.

But back to the question asked by the city councilman. He wants to know what the city has ever done in the way of legal or moral commitments regarding Hassman Park. It looks like leaping from the sublime to the ridiculous when the Black Dispatch must advise the city council regarding its previous deliberations, when the city ordinances of 1933 are available for every one of these city officials for inspection. Oklahoma City

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"An ordinance providing for separate location of residences and places of business for the white and Negro races respectively; providing that the terms and conditions thereof shall not be retroactive; providing for the separate use of city parks; providing for what is meant by white person or persons and Negro person or persons; providing an exception as to servants or employees and providing an emergency."

The above abstract of the segregation ordinance passed, states clearly, and without reservation, that the city council had in mind when this ordinance was passed to set aside and dedicate Negro parks. This fact is inescapable.

The information offered here is available to every councilman down at the city hall. It proves conclusively that the city council passed an ordinance dedicating and naming Hassman Park to Negro use and occupancy.

The ordinance was passed and we turn now to Section 7, of said act, which reads as follows:

"That all parks now designated for the exclusive use of Negroes shall be used exclusively by Negroes for recreation and celebration purposes, and it shall be unlawful for any white person to use said parks, to include especially Booker T. Washington, Hassman and Riverside Parks."

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

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False Information

In their futile effort to convey the idea that Negroes in Oklahoma City are divided over the park question, the white newspapers of this city are guilty of a type of duplicity and dissembling. Two worthless Negroes, in whom no Negroes in this municipality place any confidence or trust, are picked up and paraded in the news columns of daily publications as important citizens, heading movements in opposition to the Hassman Park plan.

Both of these two Negroes are ex-convicts, with records in Oklahoma and Texas penal institutions. They are further characterized as lawyers, when it is well known to everyone that neither of these individuals are attorneys of record before the courts. The sole purpose of this type of vicious propaganda is to suggest the idea that Negroes are divided on the park issue. One of the park officials, after listening to suggestions from such a source, exclaimed, "You Negroes are divided and do not know what you want." Of such material do hypocrites construct a fort in which to hide.

Summer is here. Before us lies a newspaper with these lines.

> "Vacation time, bright sunshine and cool breezes sent attendance at city parks Sunday over the top on the unofficial opening Sunday of the summer season.
>
> "Recreational Director G. W. Damelson met with his park foremen Monday to compare notes and came out of the meeting with an attendance estimate of 32,500.
>
> "Of this number, Uncle Leo Blondin, keeper of the Lincoln Park Zoo, claimed 8.195 persons from Oklahoma, California, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Mexico. Uncle Leo has eyes peeled for autol icense plates.
>
> "The bulk of the turnout was registered at the seven large parks, Lincoln, Memorial, McKinley, Oliver, Wheeler, Will Rogers and Wiley Post."

Here is an admission that the city furnishes a zoo for even the foreigners who come from Mexico and none for Negroes. Note the parks listed as having the crowds. City fathers say Hassman Park is too far out. We wonder how many poor white kiddies were in the estimated 32,000 attending Lincoln and Wiley Post parks? How far out are they?

While all of this recreational program is going on our calloused city fathers advise us that the Negro park question will be deferred. Negroes are divided because two ex-convicts, alleged to be lawyers, oppose Hassman Park.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Oklahoma

A White Man's Word

Superiority is not white; it is virtue. A lot of folk attempt segregation and Jim Crow based upon the theory that the power to force human beings to stand afar, or in prescribed places, implements one into a position of superiority. They forget that superiority springs from within and not from without. Black land, measured by the standards of known knowledge, is superior to white land, but that does not prove anything except to show that all virtue does not rest in the color white. When God paints a beautiful rainbow in the sky it is peculiar that He utilizes colors. Why not make all that is beautiful and worth while white?

Black Dispatch

Then again, superiority is not hypocrisy, deception, pretense and insincerity. Into our notion of superiority we build such virtues as integrity and honesty. A superior human being, in our judgment, would possess the spirit of truthfulness, trustworthiness and justice. It would not make much difference what color a human being is, if he does not measure up to the standard we set up here, we would doubt his equality with that portion of humanity possessed of such rectitude and chastity.

L-3-37

We have said all of this in order to allow the governing agencies in Oklahoma City to secure a proper and apt picture. Assuming that might makes right, and forgetting all about moral responsibility, the city government has for a number of years repudiated agreement after agreement with Negroes. Apparently when the question of Negroes arises it is the occasion to assume that all natural standards set for human behaviorism may be forgotten. One grinds ants under his heels . . . why not "niggers"?

In the matter of parks and recreation centers for Negroes in Oklahoma City the governing agencies have been hypocritical, deceptive and insincere. Agreement after agreement has been solemnly made and arrogantly repudiated. One set of officials will definitely agree on a plan of action while representing the city, only to have the same utterly ignored and laughed at by the next set of "superior" humans who happen to be in power. The truth is that we believe segregation and Jim Crow are forms God uses to prove how small and insignificant are parvenus and snobs.

Oklahoma City Okla.

For twenty long years Negroes have been herded over the city like cattle. We are going to publish here a letter written by a white man now dead. J. G. Street was a city commissioner in 1917. At that time the city wanted to float bonds to purchase the present Fair Grounds tract. In order that Negroes would support this bond issue, which meant additional taxes on their homes, J. G. Street approached the Negro Business League, of which at that time this writer was secretary. Mr. Street told the Business League if the Negroes would support that bond issue, Negroes could always use Fair Park for recreational purposes. We told Mr. Street to reduce that promise to writing. Here it is written under date of May 4, 1917:

Mr. William Harrison,
City,
Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, I called the Park Board together and presented the matter of the colored people using the Fair Park if it is secured by the city. Without a dissenting voice they agreed to the proposition to which I assented and will be pleased to assist in every way in my power in helping this matter along as you desire.

The Park Board consists of J. E. O'Neil, Dr. J. A. Ryan and J. F. Warren.

As proof of the lack of integrity vested in that promise we want to offer in evidence the statement of Prof. J. H. Spencer, principal of the schools at Boggy Bend, Atoka county, and who is a resident of Oklahoma City, residing at 720 East Fourth street.

Prof. Spencer last Sunday decided to drive around in the Fair Park with his wife and a visiting friend. He stopped near a ball game in progress in the southeast corner section of the grounds.

"No sooner had I stopped," said Prof. Spencer, "than a man who showed a police badge and had a billy in his hand approached and announced:

'You colored people can't come in here any more. You can't drive through here. You'll have to stay out.'"

Mr. Spencer drove out, but what happened to him is not so unfortunate as what happened to the integrity in a white man's promise. Negroes in 1917 voted almost to a man for the Fair Grounds bond issue. The files of the Black Dispatch will prove this, and in addition, they were promised the right and privilege by the controlling group to use Fair Park, as shown by the letter printed above and which any white man in Oklahoma City may see, written and signed on the stationery of the City of Oklahoma City, if they will but drive down to the Black Dispatch office.

The city at that time maintained what was called a Negro park on the land immediately east of the old Douglass school. A dance hall was built and rented out to a private individual. The location then, and is now, in a red light district where no decent black man would want to send his children or go himself. Although this tract is carried by the city park board on its records as a Negro park, everyone who has discourse to reason and fact knows that "Riverside Park" is an undeveloped, unlighted, unsupervised tramp rendezvous.

Booker Washington Park came nearer being the answer to the Negro's prayer than any other spot that has ever been selected by the city government for Negro recreation, and regardless of the charge now that Negroes are desirous of moving into white neighborhoods, and that this writer has a special motive, the fact still obtrudes that Councilmen Taylor and Offutt came over to the Negro Business League unsolicited and proposed that Booker Washington Park be drilled for oil. They were so anxious that it be done that they proposed two previously unheard

of things. They said that Negroes might select what in their judgment was the best oil bid and that with the money derived from bonus and royalty Negroes could go out and select a park site.

It was the city attorney's office that went to the Hassmans and worked out a plan by which a restriction in the deed would be removed, so that Negroes could occupy the land as a park. Harlan Deupree handled this matter. Why did the city attorney's office commit this official act if the city did not intend to use the same for a Negro park? Later the Hassman tract was dedicated by ordinance as a Negro park and the park board and the then city manager authorized the Negro Business League to select a name. The name of the Hassman Park, as designated by a committee that met at Avery Chapel A. M. E. church, was delivered to the park broad by this writer.

Now the city government repudiates this agreement. It is repudiated for no other reason than the fact that Negroes refused to barter fundamental rights for a park. Members of the Eastside Civic club jumped in the middle of the park situation and declared that unless Negroes receded from their court action to void segregation by ordiance in Oklahoma City, the park would be denied them. Negroes went ahead and battled their way through the courts and won. Even though the city government has extracted more than $200,000 from the Booker Washington playground in oil bonus and royalties, refusal is made to give Negroes any portion of this huge fund or the park that it was agreed they should and which they purchased and dedicated by ordinance for Negroes.

Two years ago a group of business men and doctors got an agreement out of City Manager Mosier, that the hospital at Second and Stiles streets would be turned over to Negroes. The last act of Mr. Mosier while in office was to call the new manager, Mr. Baker, into his office and tell him to carry out this promise. In keeping with this plan Representative LaVerne Carleton went into the legislature and introduced a bill passing the property at Second and Stiles back from the state to the city.

Comes now the two councilmen from the second ward and repudiate this promise. They ruthlessly announce that they will raze the building and develop the area into a playground. All we have said here can be verified by Messrs. Mosier, Baker, Deupree and Carleton. Even if the hospital building is left for its intended purpose and the ground developed for recreation, the hospital site is ruined because hospitals should be located in a quiet zone.

If there is a white man in Oklahoma City who can salve his conscience in the face of such a recordof duplicity, insincerity and pretense, we would like to look into his face. The report of the park board shows that the city has a five-million dollar park system. The acreage controlled and developed is 2,200, 1,700 of this amount is located outside of the city limits. Much argument is made about Negroes not being able to get to Hassman Park when every informed white person knows that Hassman Park is closer to the Negro population than any white park outside the city limits. The argument that the park is in a white neighborhood is all hooey. Hassman Park is bordered on the south by a farm owned by a Negro. The Noble farm to the east had had a dozen Negro families in occupancy for the past fifteen years. To the southeast there has been platted an addition where more than fifty lots were sold and are now owned by Negroes. To the west a Negro owns a five-acre tract. Does that look like the park is located in a white neighborhood?

Distinction should of course be made as between playgrounds and parks. Every sensible Negro wants as many playgrounds as possible. The tract at Second and Stiles would be very desirable for a playground were it not for the fact that in the judgment of those Negroes who think they have a right to think for themselves, the building there is desired for a hospital. But if we are to have a large diversion park comparable with the 1,700-odd acres that white people have for white people, that park must be located outside the city limits. One thing is certain, as every informed person knows: If the Hassman tract is lost there is not another piece of hill land, above the overflow area of the North Canadian within five miles that can be secured.

Through all of this maze of duplicity and pretense of doing right, there shines just one gleam of light. We know that there are hundreds of white people in Oklahoma City who do not support the unfair position of the governing agencies. More than 100 members of the Sunday school class of the white Methodist church signed a recent letter telling the mayor to do something regarding parks for Negroes. Scores of splendid white people have taken a stand for right. One white lady phoned and said that she had personally had fully fifty of her friends write to the council members telling them to be just and fair with the Negro population. The human race has climbed on protest and so it is that black men and women, concerned about the future, will continue to protest until enough white friends have joined our ranks sufficient to force the issue.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

South Carolina

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
February 1, 1937

Planning a Park for Negroes

The Herald believes that all residents of Spartanburg will endorse the effort of the colored people of the city to establish a recreational park and especially the publicity to be given the movement by means of a festival of Negro music.

George L. Johnson, former music conductor for the National Recreation Association, is in Spartanburg and will organize a large chorus of male and female voices to sing the spirituals and other folk music of the race. He is said to possess an unusually good voice and has had long experience in the training of voices in community music.

It is planned to organize a chorus of not less than 200 voices and to give them a month of rehearsal. There are many good voices among the colored people of the city. Given proper training they should form a chorus that will be worth going far to hear. The chorus and the cause in which it is enlisted will meet the approval and cooperation of the white people of Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 28, 1937

NEED IS CITED FOR NEGRO PARK

Lawyer Says Spot Would Reduce Disturbances

The need for a recreational park for negroes in the city was cited this morning in police court by a Spartanburg lawyer, who said that the lack of such provision was responsible for many "hang outs".

J. C. Mooneyham, appearing in court this morning as defense counsel in a case heard by Judge J. W. Boyd, said that large numbers of negroes congregate at various places over the city because they have no spot for recreation.

Mr. Mooneyham said that in order to get together negroes must crowd into negro residential sections which often causes trouble.

He explained that while ample provision has been made for recreation for white citizens, little has been done toward providing a similar place for negroes.

He said that streets and alleys of the city where negroes live are "swarming" with negro children and grownups in late afternoons when they seek recreation.

Mr. Mooneyham prescribed a recreational spot as a means of preventing trouble for the police department in many sections where the negroes congregate.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 30, 1937

PROGRESS MADE IN NEGRO PARK

Fund of $1,000 Soon to Be Sought Here

Considerable progress has been made in the construction of a gymnasium-pavilion in the new Evins street negro park, it was learned today from Dr. T. K. Gregg, active member of the negro civic league which is sponsoring the park project.

An intensive drive to raise $1,000 for the completion of the park, will be begun within a few days by the civic league, it was said. The league has already given funds and other assistance in the construction of the building, it was stated, and the success of the proposed campaign will hasten the conclusion of the work and the opening of the park. Any suggestions or contributions from interested persons will be welcomed by league officials.

The park property was donated by the E. E. Gentry estate and Henry Cleveland as a negro recreational center. The building, which will be used as a gymnasium and community building, will contain facilities for teaching, cooking, sewing, basketball and other activities. The 52x100 feet structure will cost approximately $3,000, it was estimated.

NYA labor is being used on the project.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 9, 1937

NEGROES TO SEEK RECREATION FUND

Recreation Center on Evins Street Is Planned by Civic League

Funds for the construction of a recreation center for negroes on Evins street are to be sought by the Negro Civic League of Spartanburg.

The campaign will open Thursday and will close Monday.

Funds raised in the drive will supplement those which have already been donated by the National Youth Administration for the erection of a building of five rooms with basement and as assembly hall. Facilities for the teaching of sewing, cooking and other domestic science studies will be provided.

The NYA authorities estimate that the building will cost approximately $6,000 and are furnishing two dollars to every one dollar donated by the Civic League.

A request has been made of the WPA for funds in the development of the area surrounding the building, which was donated by the Gentry and Cleveland estate for the development of a negro park. Several outstanding organizations and business men have expressed the need for such a project in this community and pledge their support. This movement also has been endorsed by the city council and the chamber of commerce.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
August 14, 1937

CITY KEEPS UP 2 NEGRO PARKS

McPherson Spikes Reports That Greenville Without Parks For Colored Citizens

In responese to many statements concerning the lack of park facilities in the city for negroes, J. A. McPherson, chairman of the municipal park and tree commission, today pointed out that the city does support two such parks, one at Mayberry and one in Cleveland park near Nicholtown.

The parks are operated under the supervision of the Phyllis Wheatley center, Mr. McPherson said, and were several years ago set aside by the city for the use of negroes.

Mr. McPherson reported that the city's parks are now in fair shape. A crew of hired workmen has been at work on the grounds for several days now, and are making good progress in repairing the damage done by the neglect the parks suffered when WPA workers were cut off two months ago.

It will probably be another month at least before convict labor from the city stockade can be obtained for use on the parks, Mr. McPherson said. After that, he added, the parks should be kept in good shape with a permanent crew available at all times.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 19, 1937

A Park for Negroes

Effort is being made to collect a fund of $1,000 to be used for completing the work on the recreation center for negroes on Evins street. Land has been contributed for the park and a building is needed. The sum asked is small and should be raised without delay.

A recreation center for the colored people of Spartanburg should be one of the projects of city government. The good results to be obtained from such an enterprise would not be confined to one race. At present the negroes have no place of recreation, no place to go when not at work and they must, therefore, gather on street corners or confine their activities to small yards and little front porches.

The city has Duncan and Cleveland parks for white people. It would be the fair and farsighted thing to do if proper recreation facilities should be provided for negroes.

Camden, S. C. Chronicle
October 8, 1937

Plan Athletic Field For Colored Youth

Camden's Auxiliary Athletic Association, composed of colored citizens of Camden, met Wednesday, October 6, at Browning Home, at 8 p. m., to discuss establishing an athletic field and boy's dormitory for the Browning Home-Mather Academy.

The association adopted these two projects, which will cost approximately $100,000. A drawing of the field and dormitory by Lafaye and Lafaye, architects of Columbia, was accepted by the association. The association looks to the 400,000 members of the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church and friends throughout America to accomplish this aim.

I. B. English, president of the association, says, "We plan the biggest year in Mather's history and ask all who are interested in the advancement of the school and the development of youth to open their hearts and exemplify a philanthropic spirit. We extend to all loyal citizens of Camden, at home and abroad, the Macedonian call, 'Come over and help us.' Investments now, in the youth of today, will yield large returns in characters and good loyal citizens in future years: in the form of Christian

The president presented the association with $50, that had been donated by a loyal citizen of Camden. Board of directors of the association are as follows: I. B. English, president; M. I. Fuller, treasurer; Dr. J. H. Thomas, Dr. J. P. Pickett, Dr. C. C. Brevard, H. L McLester, Robert Duren, Addie Pickett, A. R. Collins and Willie Brownlee, directors.

Parks and Play Grounds—1937

South Carolina

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
June 30, 1937

PAVILION BEGUN IN NEGRO PARK

Progress Noted in Erection of New $3,000 Building

The erection of a new gymnasium-pavilion has been started in the Evins street negro park, and rapid progress has been made in its construction, according to Dr. T. K. Gregg, a leader of the negro civic league.

The building, it was stated, will be used as a community center and is being erected on ground donated sometimes ago by the E. E. Gentry estate and Henry Cleveland for use as a negro recreational center.

The building will be 52 x 100 feet and will include facilities for teaching cooking, sewing and similar subjects. The structure, according to the building permit taken out at city hall, will cost approximately $3,000. NYA labor is being used on the project, it was stated.

Work was started on the building several days ago. The foundation is now being placed.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 5, 1937

PLAYGROUNDS TO GIVE PROGRAM

Nine Recreation Centers Busy This Afternoon

An extensive city playground program was to be given at nine Spartanburg playgrounds this afternoon under the supervision of adult leaders in an effort to prevent accidents from befalling children of the city on Independence day, Mrs. S. N. Burts, city playground director, announced last night.

The play program, which will consist of planned games and contests, was to begin at six white and three negro playgrounds at 3 o'clock and will continue until 6 o'clock, Mrs. Burts said.

The white playgrounds at which the program will be presented are Happy Hollow, Duncan park Cleveland playground, Cleveland park, West End school and Southside school, it was said. Negro playgrounds were listed as North Liberty street, South Liberty street and Evins street.

St. George, S. C., Eagle
August 5, 1937

$373.35 RAISED FOR NEGRO BOY'S CAMP

The N. F. S. C. boys along with their teacher, M. A. Odom, wish to thank those who have contributed so loyally to the camp that is being built three miles out of Orangeburg for the Negro boys in South Carolina who are being trained in Vocational Agriculture.

We are especially grateful to our St. George friends, both colored and white, for their liberal donation.

Those who have contributed in this drive are as follows:

D. W. Gavin
Myers Hardware Company
Peoples Hardware
Rev. A. S. Newman
Lewis Brown

Tennessee

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Jackson, Tenn. Sun
January 15, 1937

COLORED AGENTS AND LEADERS ARE GIVEN RECREATIONAL COURSE

W. P. Jackson, field secretary of the National Recreation Association, New York City, instructed negro farm and home assistant agents, and leaders, in recreational activities at Lane College yesterday and today.

Agents and leaders from counties of Hardeman, Haywood, Fayette, Madison, Shelby, and Tipto were present to receive the instruction designed to show leaders how they can encourage worthwhile recreational activities among youth.

Emphasizing that play is a part of natural human activity, the instructor said it also developed in youth imagination, a sense of loyalty, and a sense of justice. Agents and leaders participated in a number of games during the instruction.

It is felt the recreational course will be of value to 4-H boys and girls in the above mentioned counties.

Request May Kill All Park Possibilities

Afro-American
5-1-37
Baltimore, Md.

Said One Park Would Destroy Amicable Relations.

PETITION SET OUT RACIAL FAILINGS

Only Hope Left Is in People's Action.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.— Fear that a petition asking for a jim crow park, submitted to the National Park Service by the Community Welfare League here, would result in the making of no recreational provisions at all for colored citizens, was expressed here this week, by the NAACP.

The only hope that the citizens of Memphis have now, it was said, is to let the National Park Service and the United States Department of the Interior know that the Community League of Memphis was not speaking for the people of Memphis when the request was made.

If the people are satisfied, however, nothing else can be done in the matter, it was said. The league petition was signed by William H. Foote, attorney, as president; and L. J. Searcy as executive secretary.

Shelby Forest

The situation grew out of the development of Shelby Forest near here, regarded as the largest recreational area east of the Mississsippi River, by the National Park Service.

At that time, it was thought that facilities would be provided there for both colored and white citizens. However, the Welfare League petition, submitted in December, asked that Shelby Forest be all white, and that Douglass Park, a flat area of a few acres just outside of Memphis, be developed for colored people.

However, the NAACP said this week that it had received reliable information that the National Park Service feels that the Douglass Park acreage is too small for development, and that it has refused to consider buying more land.

Point Out Faults

The Community League told the National Park Service in its petition that it asked the separation "because the colored population here constitutes approximately sixty per cent of the relief load, seventy per cent of the adult and juvenile delinquency, and eighty per cent of the disease and mortality rates from preventable diseases."

The petition also stated that "the League does not believe that it would strengthen the amicable race relations now existing in Memphis to bring the two races into close proximity to each other."

CLASH OVER PARK BREWS IN MEMPHIS

Courier 5-1-37
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Negroes Disagree In Choice Between Having Part of Big Park Or Starting Separate Project.

MEMPHIS, April 29—(ANP)—A bitter controversy is being waged between various groups of Memphis' colored citizens as to whether it is best to accept a segregated portion of the big Shelby Forest project for the use of colored citizens or to insist on development of the Douglass Park area for Negroes.

Heading the group favoring the Douglass Park project is the Community Welfare league, represented by Atty. William H. Foote, the president, and L. J. Searcy, executive secretary. Members of the league have sent a petition to Washington officials of the National Park service, requesting: (1) "That the National Park service will include in its reforestation and recreational program the Douglass Park area, adjacent to which is, we believe, available ground for such use, and (2) That the Douglass Park project, if considered favorably, include outdoor camping facilities, pits for cooking a lake for fishing and such other facilities as would be deemed necessary and practical."

Colored opponents to the Douglass park project base their objection on the contention that Douglass park is a small, flat area of a few acres, just outside Memphis, that it is too small for development under the federal plan and that the National park service refuses to buy any additional land. It is said the government will furnish and install the equipment only if the citizens produce a land area of adequate size.

Officials of the N. A. A. C. P., headed by Special Counsel Chas. H. Houston, have interested themselves in the proposed 12,000 acre Shelby Forest project, which, when finished, will be one of the most complete and luxurious recreational areas in the country. The N. A. A. C. P., finding it impossible to have Negroes incorporated into the big project without segregation, have been working to get equal but separate accommodation for Negroes in Shelby Forest.

Opposing the N. A. A. C. P. idea, the Community Welfare League, in its letter to the National Park service, said: "The league does not believe that it would strengthen the amicable race relations now existing in Memphis to bring the two races into close proximity to each other, assuming that the area could accommodate both groups."

And there the matter rests. If colored Memphians refuse the proffered "equal but separate accommodations" on the Shelby Forest Project, and if the government refuses to appropriate money for development of the Douglass Park areas, they will lose out on both projects, with the whites getting all the recreational advantages, and they, none.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
May 26, 1937

SEE RESERVOIR AS SWIM POOL

Abandoned Payne Site Is Considered for Negroes.

The abandoned Payne street reservoir of the water department may be converted into a swimming pool for Negroes, it was learned last night.

James Meek and O. M. Tate, jr., attorneys, have been negotiating with City Manager Dempster for the purchase of this reservoir, which will hold approximately 3,500,000 gallons of water.

The city would retain the standpipe on this hill, under the deal. The proposal will be laid before city council tonight, Mr. Meek said.

Application has been made to the city planning commission for permission to build and operate a privately-owned pool and recreation center at this place. It probably will be heard by the commission at 2 p. m. tomorrow.

Terms of the deal have not been disclosed.

The commission also will hear an application by Mrs. J. T. Thomas to rezone both sides of Central street between Woodlawn and Oklahoma avenues for commercial purposes.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
November 7, 1937

PERMIT FOR POOL LARGEST OF WEEK

Project in Lincoln Park to Cost Total of $60,000.

Total of 60 Transfers Are Listed for Aggregate of $87,502.

The largest building permit for the past week was issued to the city of Chattanooga for the erection of a concrete swimming pool for Negroes, in Lincoln park, the cost of which will be $60,000.

While there were several permits for the construction of business and manufacturing buildings, none was issued for new homes, according to the records at the city hall. Other permits during the week included one issued to the city for the erection of a steel shed at the Farmers' Market, Inc., at the intersection of Eleventh and Baldwin streets. This building will cost $10,000.

The Southern Chemical Cotton company secured a permit to build a temporary frame and steel shed, at Forty-fifth street and Central avenue, which will also cost $10,000. Other permits were for repairs and alterations and for installation of furnaces, stokers and flues.

O. B. Andrews Gets Permit.

A permit was issued to the O. B. Andrews company for the erection of a foundation for a new factory building at a cost of $6,000. The building will be located at Rossville and Central avenues and the foundation will be of concrete.

There were seventy-two building permits issued during the week, exclusive of yesterday, and the aggregate value of construction was $97,624.

The largest realty transfer for the period was the sale of a home on Lookout mountain to Florence B. Gore by the Home Owners' Loan corporation for $8,000.

Mrs. Jane Wilcox purchased a home on Vine street from Don C. Hurlbut at a cost of $6,000, and a home in Conner Estates, formerly owned by John Stagmaier, Jr., was sold to Pansy M. Kellis for $5,000.

Other transfers registered during the week, exclusive of yesterday, were comparatively small. Sixty transfers were recorded for an aggregate amount of $87,502.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1937

Texas.

LEAGUE SEEKS NEGRO PARK FOR WHITES

FORT WORTH.—Again the satanic monster of greed raised his ugly head when the Riverside Civic League (white) in meeting in the Centennial room of the Texas Hotel Tuesday night of last week made another attempt to take the beautiful Greenway Park, located on the highway between Fort Worth and Dallas from the Negroes.

Two councilmen of the city were present at the meeting and stated that they did not think it advisable to take the park from the Negroes until another suitable location was found.

11-13-37

Leading spokesmen for the civic league contended that: (1) the park is not centrally located for Negroes; (2) the Negroes use it only on holidays and special school occasions. A few Negroes come down sometime and knock a few golf balls around; Bates used it for two days for football practice, he said; (3) We have a site in mind that is more centrally located, near the Negro high school. (The site that the speaker referred to is the Harmon field down in the river bottom-it is believed).

Negroes are against any movement that will rob them of the beautiful park. It adds to their prestige and enjoy it on numerous occasions. The various civic organizations are preparing to oppose any such move.

Parks and Play Grounds-1937

Virginia
6

Newport News, Va. Press
February 12, 1937

TO DEDICATE NEGRO RECREATION HOUSE

Dedication of the Negro recreation building in the East end, erected by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company for its workers, will take place at 2 p. m. Sunday.

Blair Blanton, shipyard electrician and veteran chairman of the employes' representatives' committee, will be the principal speaker. Brief talks will be made by a number of local officials. Invitations to the city's governing body, to the school board, and to other prominent local citizens have been sent by G. Wesley Raney, director of the building.

The Negro group will have entire charge of the program, shipyard officials said.

The recreation building was erected by the yard at a cost of between $50,000 and $60,000. It is located adjacent to the new Huntington Negro high school, and through an agreement between the shipyard and the school board, is used as a gymnasium and for similar activities by the Huntington students. Both the yard and the city participate in its maintenance.

A board representing the three interested groups administers the building. The shipyard is represented by E. J. Robeson Jr., personnel manager; the city by Joseph H. Saunders, superintendent of schools, and the Negro race by Rev. J. Metz Rollins, pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian church.

The building was completed late last fall, and an informal opening was held Thanksgiving day. It has been in use since.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
February 13, 1937

Negro Recreational Facilities Discussed With City Officials

City Manager Thompson and Director of Public Welfare Parker yesterday held a two-hour conference with a group of Negro citizens on a question of the needs for park and recreational facilities for the city's Negro population.

P. B. Young, editor of the Journal and Guide, is head of the general committee of Negro citizens on this question. He was present for the conference, along with P. B. Young, Jr., the Rev. B. B. Evans, pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church; Winston Douglas, principal of the Booker T. Washington High School, and Dr. E. D. Burke, M. D.

The problems confronted were discussed generally and the committee agreed to report to the City Manager next week on what its members consider the principal needs of the Negro population for park, playground and other recreational facilities. Among the subjects discussed were the operation of the Negro bathing beach at Little Creek this summer, the possibility of developing Barraud Park as an athletic center for the Negro school children and school playgrounds.

Norfolk, Va Pilot
March 12, 1937

Need of Municipal Negro Gymnasium Is Cited By Akers

The need of a municipal gymnasium for Negroes was emphasized yesterday in a talk by Dr. Gerald W. Akers, associate professor of modern languages at the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, at a luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club in the Fairfax Hotel.

He said he understood the City of Norfolk allotted only 2 per cent of its recreation appropriation for the benefit of Negroes. He said Negroes in Norfolk had no gymnasium or any other place for recreation, and added that there was no gymnasium provided for their use in all of Tidewater Virginia, with the exception of the new one recently opened in Newport News.

Mr. Akers illustrated his lecture with lantern slides showing slum housing conditions in the city. He said it had been shown that 90 per cent of the slum population responded to better housing and living conditions.

After his address, the Kiwanis Club appointed a committee to draft a resolution which would ask City Manager T. P. Thompson to increase his efforts to correct slum conditions in the city.

PROJECT IN LYNCHBURG REMAINS UNCERTAIN

Journal and Guide

Present Park Plans Call For Swimming Pool and Playground: Some Object

(Special to Journal and Guide)

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Whether the Jefferson park project begun over a year ago to provide a place for the recreation of colored people will be completed this spring as announced recently by City Manager R. W. B. Hart, is still uncertain, it was learned this week by the Guide reporter.

3-20-37

When the site was first proposed a representative number of leading Negroes of Lynchburg registered their opposition to the location on the ground that it was not suitable and that the colored people wouldn't use the park. Mr. Hart ignored this objection and arranged to have the park constructed with PWA funds.

ALL FACILITIES

The project calls for a swimming pool, park and playground. Considerable time was spent in an attempt to reach an agreement on the size of the pool. The original size was limited several times on the explanation that relief labor and funds were lacking.

Work on the project was discontinued last fall during the discussion on the advisability of limiting the size of the swimming pool. Meantime soil erosion and surface drainage have caused considerable damage to the grading and the turfing around the basin of the park has proved unsatisfactory.

SEVERAL FOR WHITES

For several years the colored citizens have expressed dissatisfaction with the lac kof park and playground facilities for Negro youth in Lynchburg. The white population has several parks including the recently constructed Miller park.

Newport News, Va. Press
April 16, 1937

NEGRO RECREATION PROJECT TO OPEN HERE ABOUT MAY 1

Program Conducted, Financed By WPA to Be Presented At Community Center On King Street

A recreational project, directed and financed by the WPA for Negroes of Hampton, Phoebus and Elizabeth City county, will be started shortly at the Negro community center on North King street.

The project, the first to be launched in this section, will be open to adults youths and children. Club work will be featured along with a program of physical education. Workers are now busy preparing the building and grounds for the project which will open about May 1.

The project is under the direction of Mrs. Martha F. Stroud, supervisor. Sylvius A. Moore, a graduate student in physical education at Hampton institute, will be the leader and his assistants are Helen Sharpe, Audrey Jackson and Susie Diggs.

The Elizabeth City county school board and Robert M. Newton, division superintendent of schools, have endorsed the project. The colored center is already being used as a nursery school under the WPA.

Miss Lula Clyde Woody, State director of WPA recreation and T. C. Walker, adviser and consultant on Negro affairs for Virginia, will attend the opening along with others interested in the project.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
May 26, 1937

Negro Beach Is Leased To E. B. Davis

City Manager Authorized By Council to Execute Contract

Rental At $250

Thompson Reports Improvements To Berkley Playgrounds Under Way

A contract leasing the Negro bathing beach at Little Creek to E. B. Davis, sales manager for a local bottling company, from May 29 to October 1 for $250, yesterday was approved by the City Council and City Manager Thompson was authorized to execute the contract.

This contract embraces practically all the features in the lease under which the Negro resort was operated last summer and requires the operator to furnish an indemnity bond to protect the city from any liability which might arise as a result of any accident or personal injury to anyone visiting the resort.

A public hearing had been advertised for leasing the resort a week earlier and at that time bids were to have been received and opened, but no bids were received. The contract approved yesterday provides that no admission price shall be charged to enter the resort, that the scale of prices shall be approved by the City Manager at concession stands, etc., that the tenant keep the property in good repair and that in every respect run a high class amusement park shall be operated and properly policed.

A question of obtaining storm insurance for the buildings was referred to the City Manager for further investigation and a report.

At the request of Councilman Reed, the council referred to City Manager Thompson a question of devolping city-owned waterfront property at Ocean View to make it more accessible to bathers.

Berkley's Request

Reporting on a request from Berkley citizens that the city furnish better playground facilities

for the Berkley schools, City Manager Thompson said some tennis courts near the schools would be developed and that Bernard Glasser, representing the Berkley citizens, and W. H. Taylor, 3d., Director of Public Works, were working on plans which he hoped, with WPA aid, could furnish adequate playground facilities.

The council placed on its first reading an ordinance providing that property on which 1935 real estate taxes have not been paid be advertised for sale. Delinquent tax bills total $6581,312 for that year, as published in yesterday's Virginian-Pilot.

An ordinance was put on first reading providing for the construction of sidewalks on the east side of Ballentine boulevard where walks have not already been laid, the costs to be apportioned between the city and abutting property owners, according to State law.

The council voted to permit the City Mace to be used in the Memorial Day parade under a proper police guard.

The council approved a lease of a small building at Ocean View to the Dixie Pleasure Club for the summer season for $100.

An ordinance was adopted providing for the laying of sewer, along portions of Verdun, Marne Lyons and Maltby avenues and Lafayette boulevard, the costs to be apportioned between the city and abutting property owners.

City Manager Thompson reported the city's share of bus receipts for April totalled $3,372.87.

An application from D. H. Goodman, Inc., for a permit to erect and operate a gasoline filling station at the northwest corner of Colonial avenue and Twenty-third street was referred to the City Manager and City Planning Commission.

The council approved a list of members for a permanent crime commission as provided for in a resolution adopted at the recent crime conference. This list follows:

Mayor W. R. L. Taylor, Mrs. M. C. Adams, Miss Annie O'Connell, Mrs. C. E. Rudolphi, Miss Sue Slaughter, Mrs. E. M. Wainwright, Col. Charles B. Borland, Dr. Albert V. Crosby, Dr. Louis Mendoza, Dr. J. L. Rawls, Dr. Frank H. Redwood, Dr. J. C. Sleet, Capt. J. D. Wood, Judge Clyde H. Jacob, Judge Herbert C. Cochrane.

The Rev. C. Grier Davis, the Rev. B. W. Harris, Father Leo J. Ryan, F. E. Burleson, D. Paul Decker, A. H. Foreman, W. S. Harney, Louis I. Jaffe, C. L. Wharton and A. B. Schwarzkopf.

A request from Mrs. Lena Gibson, owner of three lots in Berkley, on the corner of Grayson and Nelson streets, running through to Bath street, that a street be cut through Grayson street to a newly constructed road, was referred to the City Manager.

Receive Invitation

An invitation from Ocean View Post, 3160, V. F. W., for the council to attend the first anniversary of the dedication of their home at Ocean View, was received by the council and the clerk instructed to send a message of thanks for the invitation. Councilman Reed was requested to represent the council at the exercises on Monday afternoon, May 31, at 2:30 o'clock.

The council sent back to the City Manager and the Board of Zoning Appeals a request for the rezoning of property at 326 Shirley avenue from Residence A to Residence C. The board had recommended against the request, but the City Manager reported he thought it would be better to rezone the property than to leave it vacant.

The council authorized a refund of $1,575.31 to the National Bank of Commerce on a real estate tax bill that had been paid by Ames & Brownley and on which the bank had understood it was liable for the taxes.

An appropriation of $250 was voted to purchase a portable screen and other equipment for showing pictures for stercopticon lectures in health, landscaping and educational work.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
May 20, 1937

No Closing Will Be Tolerated

The day for opening bids for the operation of the city beach for Negroes arrived without any bids to open. No bidders having appeared, the City Manager informed the Council, the city is confronted with a choice of three courses (1) operating the beach itself, (2) renewing the effort to obtain a private lessee-operator, or (3) closing the beach up.

Neither the City Manager nor the City Council, we believe, would seriously consider the last course. That the people of this city would tolerate the closing of this $30,000 beach plant—the only recreation facility open to a third of the city's population—is unthinkable. In view of the city's openhanded operation of parks and golf courses for the benefit of the white population, refusal to undertake the operation of a small beach park for the benefit of the colored population that is excluded from the recreational facilities that absorb 97 per cent or more of the budget appropriation for this general purpose, would be discrimination with a vengeance—an act abhorrent to fair play, indecent and uncivilized.

If no other choice is left, the city will have to operate the Negro beach itself—just as it operates Lafayette Park, Memorial Park and the Lafayette River recreation pier—all restricted to the use of the white population. But that point has not yet been reached. It should be wholly practicable to arrange for operation under lease to a private or public service agency.

That form of operation is to be preferred. To expedite it, the city should dispense with all burdensome requirements. Bidders for the new lease were required to contract for a two-year period and to post a certified check for $500 as a guarantee of performance. None of this is necessary. Cancellation of the old operating contract has had the effect of presenting the city with $20,000 worth of buildings and improvements free of charge. It can afford to assume a small risk on the proper upkeep of a physical plant that has cost it nothing.

Since this is a public recreational facility created for the benefit of the Negro population, the operating problem would be admirably solved if some responsible Negro charitable or social service group would undertake the responsibility under an arrangement which would apply the profits of the operation to this group's social service objectives. There must be several such responsible colored agencies in the city. Let one of them come forward with an operating proposal and let the Council hand over to it the running of the beach facility with the least amount of red tape—without exacting a long-term contract and without requiring the posting of bonds or certified checks.

Alexandria, Va. Gazette
June 24, 1937

ARKANSAS PARK GIFT TO NEGROES

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (U.P.) — Arkansas is developing the first recreation park to be used exclusively by Negroes.

The site for the park, a 100-acre woodland plot situated near here in a section inhabited largely by Negro tenant-farmer families, was donated by Dr. J. B. Watson, Negro, president of the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College for Negroes.

The park site was accepted by the state under a deed specifying it is to be used perpetually by Negroes.

The park is being developed, at an estimated cost of $20,000, by the state park commission with the aid of Civilian Conservation Corps and National Youth Administration.

The NYA is sending 50 Negro youths to the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College and furnishing funds for them to earn their way through the school by working in development of the park.

Management Of Pool Target In Lynchburg

Complaint Will Be Carried To City Council Meeting

Special to Journal and Guide

LYNCHBURG, Va. — A strong movement in opposition to the present management of the Jefferson Park Pool, the only city-owned resort for Lynchburg Negroes, is developing throughout the city under the leadership of a citizens' committee representing the local NAACP, the Business and Professional Men's Club, the Ministers Conference and other organizations in the city.

Opened Saturday, July 10, with addresses by Councilman Abe Schewell, City Park Director L. Reed, the pool staff consists of all colored persons excepting the general director and peace officer both of whom are white. A white concessionaire operates a store at the pool with Negro help.

Several meetings have been held to protest against the use of white persons on the pool staff. A full committee meeting was held at the church Friday night with Rev. H. D. Clark, pastor of the church, as spokesman. Mr. Reed, director of city parks and playgrounds, who was invited to the meeting, advised the committee to carry their complaint to the city council as he was powerless to act.

The Negro committee voted to carry the matter to the city council and a small group of the body was selected to draft a petition setting forth the committee's demands. Meantime the entire city is being aroused to support the fight. A mass meeting was held in Dearington Tuesday night to discuss the pool situation.

WANT WHITES OFF VA. POOL STAFF

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Committees have been formed by the NAACP, the Business and Professional Men's Club, the Dearington Baptist Church, and the Ministers' Conference to seek the removal of two whites—a peace officer and concessionaire—from the otherwise colored staff of the New Jefferson Park pool.

City Park Director L. Reed, white, attended a mass meeting at the Dearington Baptist Church. The matter will be carried to the city council.

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Mayor Bright Boosts Erection Of Swimming Pool For Negroes

Says James River Is A Hazard To The Health And Safety Of Colored People

A swimming pool for Negro residents of Richmond loomed in sight on Monday when Mayor J. Fulmer Bright in an interview made the emphatic statement:

"I would like to see constructed in Richmond as soon as possible a swimming pool for Negroes. They do not have any place to go bathing except in the James river, which I believe to be dangerous and a menace to their health."

The Mayor Interviewed

Mayor Bright was interviewed on Tuesday regarding his published statement by a representative of the Richmond PLANET. The Mayor frankly admitted that there is a pressing need for a swimming pool in Richmond for Negroes and that he will use his best efforts to procure one at the earliest possible date. He said he favored a plan which would involve an approach to members of the City Council by representative Negro citizen soliciting their support for a city appropriation to erect the pool on a site and in a location recommended by these Negro citizens. Mayor Bright said no plans for this recreational facility were under way at present and that his advocacy of the project was made in order to get it in the formative stage.

Court Fight Threatened

Several rumors have been heard, during the present summer, that the NAACP or some other civic organization would soon go into the courts to force the city to quit its discrimination against Negroes in Shields Lake at Byrd Park. No definite action has been taken and it is thought that the Mayor's unequivocal endorsement of a swimming pool project for Negro Richmonders will serve to delay if not completely stop any anticipated action in this respect.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
August 25, 1937

A' Better Richmond

Enlargement of Both White and Negro Playground Facilities Urged by Ricks

Richmond should have a permanent committee, appointed by Mayor Bright, to develop a plan for enlarging the playground facilities of both white and Negro children, in the opinion of Judge J. Hoge Ricks of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Judge Ricks

"Such a group could survey the entire recreational field and make changes they deem advisable in the near future," said Judge Ricks. "Then the members could make improvements from year to year. Included on the committee could be representatives of the Bureau of Parks and Playgrounds and the Community Recreation Association."

Judge Ricks was warm in his praise of the contributions of Mayor Bright and Police Chief Jordan to 'A Better Richmond.'

"Dr. Bright certainly has my support in urging the construction of a swimming pool for Negroes," said the jurist. "He is right in his opinion that the James River is both dangerous and a health menace for them and that they should have a pool as soon as possible.

"The children of Church Hill, on the otaher hand, certainly would be benefited if Chief Jordan could realize his ambition to have smooth-paved for skating that portion of Chimborazo Park that is blocked off for them. Youngsters skating on the streets and sidewalks are in constant danger of meeting with an accident.

"In line with this same idea, I would like to call attention to a street that could be blocked off for Negroes without hampering the traffic situation. It is that little traveled thoroughfare along North Fourth Street and just east of the Shockoe Hill Cemetery wall. The street already is paved, so a little touching up would make it ideal for safe skating. It also would be a great improvement, at little cost, to the playground that's already there."

What are your ideas?